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Our Place

West Otago



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Our Place West Otago Feedback Report

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28 April 2022

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Consultation and engagement for Our Place West Otago aimed to seek input from the community to inform the development of the Our Place West Otago Community Plan. This report provides a summary of feedback received through two primary methods: people who responded using the Council-supplied survey form; and a series of community-based consultation events in January – March 2022.

1.1 SURVEY RESULTS

The survey aspect of the consultation asked respondents to rate the importance of existing community facilities in West Otago, on a scale between 1 (not important) to 5 (very important). The results are shown in Table 1-1 and Figure 1-1.

Table 1-1 Average rating given to existing community facilities in West Otago

Rank	Survey Priority – how important are the following community facilities?	Average
1	West Otago Community Centre	4.78
2	Black Gully Domain	4.47
3	Whiskey Gully Domain	4.40
4	Heriot Community Centre	4.13
5	Tapanui Domain	4.12
6	Heriot Domain	3.80
7	Waikoikoi Sportsground	3.48
8	Hancox Park	3.18
9	Waikoikoi Hall	3.16
10	Waipahi Hall	3.03
11	Crookston Hall	2.87

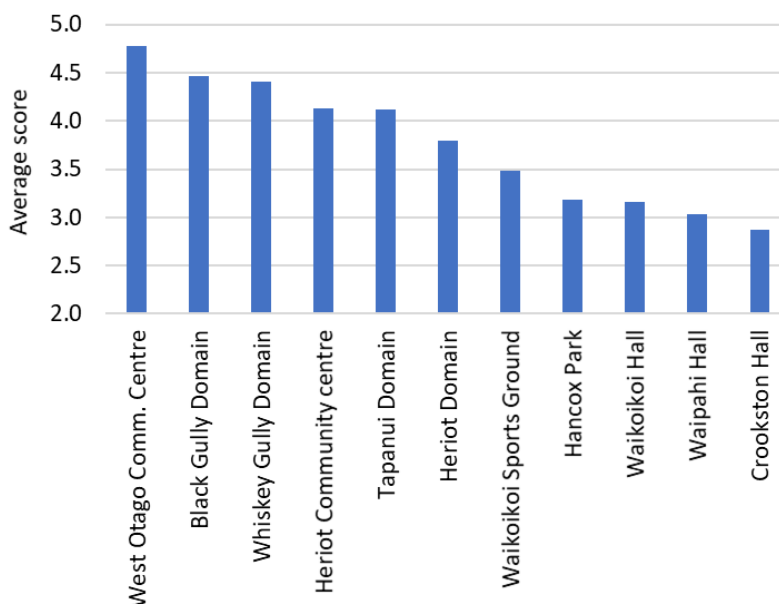


Figure 1-1 Average rating given to existing community facilities in West Otago

The survey also asked respondents to rate various options on a scale between 1 and 5. The summary table and graph below show that options within the 'landscape and environment' focus point were generally rated highly, along with two of the 'other' options presented (a green waste initiative and helping young people to work and train in West Otago).

Table 1-2 Average rating for each option listed in the survey

Rank	Survey Priority – how important are the following options?	Average
1	Other options – green waste initiative	4.23
2	Landscape & environment - eradicate pest species	4.19
3	Other options - helping young people to work and train	4.17
4	Landscape & environment - support wildlife regeneration	4.07
5	Walking and cycling – improved opportunities	4.06
6=	Walking and cycling - loop in/around Tapanui	3.85
6=	Walking and cycling - trail to a local destination	3.85
7	Landscape & environment - create/enhance wetland environments	3.71
8	Community facilities - 'destination' playground in Tapanui	3.69
9	Walking and cycling – multi-day great ride	3.52
10	Community facilities - pump track	3.40
11	Main street - upgrade toilets in Tapanui	3.26
12	Community facilities - Upgrade toilets at Tapanui playground	3.24
13	Main street - entrances to Tapanui	3.20
14	Main street - entrances to Heriot	3.17
15	Community facilities - skate park	3.02
16	Other options - public transport	3.00
17	Main street - intersection of Northumberland & Maple Street	2.83
18	Main street - underground powerlines in Tapanui	2.81

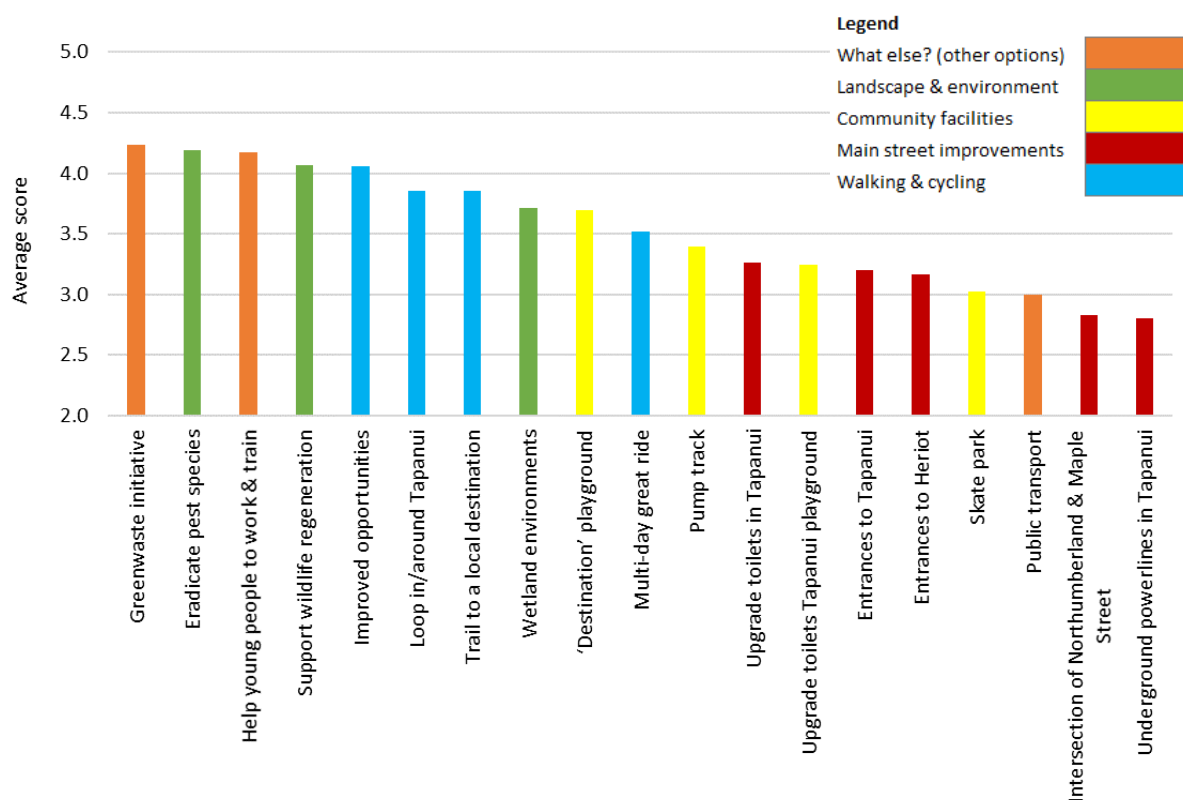


Figure 1-2 Average rating for each option listed in the survey

Respondents were asked whether Council should help to enable additional development in West Otago, with the results shown in Figure 1-3. The majority of people were in favour of Council helping to facilitate development, particularly residential development.

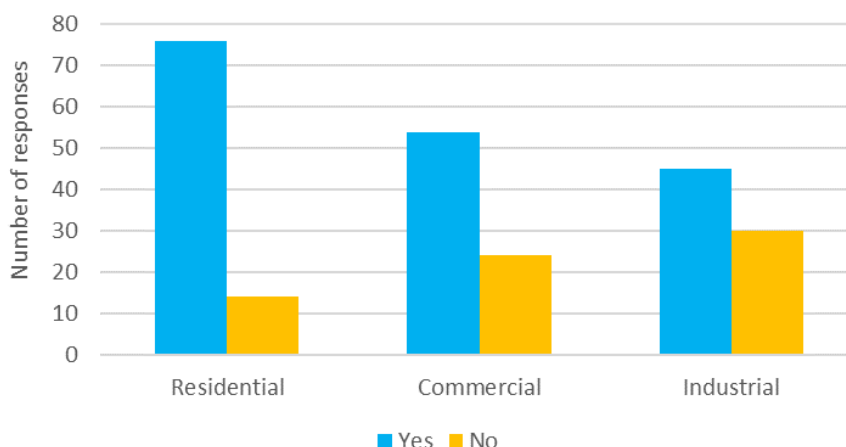


Figure 1-3 The number of responses relating to Council involvement in additional development in West Otago

How Hancox Park in Tapanui should be used in the future was also a survey question, with the results shown in Figure 1-4. Developing some form of recreational facility on this reserve was the most favoured option, closely followed by residential development.

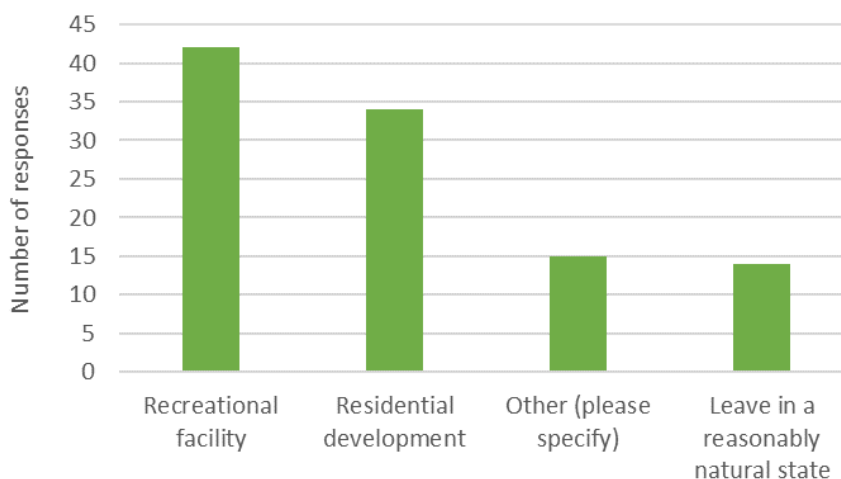


Figure 1-4 The number of responses regarding future use of Hancox Park

1.2 OTHER FEEDBACK

Through public consultation events in Tapanui, Heriot, Waikoikoi and Waipahi, members of the community were asked what was important to them and what they would like to see improved. This feedback was combined with comments received via the feedback form and other submissions, with more than 1,200 items received in total. The feedback items were assigned to one of the six 'focus points' which formed the basis of the consultation material, and Figure 1-5 shows the proportion of items which related to each area. The focus points which generated the largest number of feedback items were community facilities and opportunities for development.



Figure 1-5 The proportion of feedback items relating to each focus point

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides background information about West Otago, describes the Our Place West Otago consultation objectives, and outlines the key themes around which the consultation was focused.

2.1 CLUTHA DISTRICT LIVING AND WORKING STRATEGY

Clutha District Council's vision is that the Clutha District is a great place to live, work and play. This is a key platform in our Long Term Plan, and also ties closely with the 'Living and Working in Clutha Strategy' [\[link\]](#) which has been prepared to guide decision-making and overall progress towards three key outcomes:

1. *Clutha has vibrant rural towns and communities*
2. *Clutha is connected and collaborative, and*
3. *Clutha has a healthy and sustainable environment.*

The focus of the Our Place West Otago Community Plan is to identify what Council can do to apply the Living and Working Strategy in the West Otago Ward. This report presents a summary of the consultation feedback received for the Our Place West Otago community planning project.

The feedback reported here will help identify projects and inform priorities for Council to consider, through its Long Term Plan and Annual Plan process. The actions and projects will also help inform the activities and decisions of community groups and third-party funders.

2.2 WEST OTAGO WARD

West Otago is the most western and inland ward in the Clutha District, encompassing the townships of Tapanui, Waipahi and Heriot. The ward is bordered by the Lawrence-Tuapeka and Clinton wards to the southeast, Central Otago district to the north, and the Southland and Gore districts to the west (Figure 2-1). The ward covers 1,374 km² and consists primarily of rolling farmland and forested hills.

At the time of the 2018 census, the West Otago Ward had a population of 2,289, while the largest town of Tapanui had a population of almost 800. Livestock farming (sheep and cattle) are major industries and Tapanui is historically a forestry centre.

Other key features of West Otago include:

- *Extensive high-country areas including the Umbrella Mountains to the north, and Blue Mountains to the east.*
- *State Highway 90, which links Southland with Central Otago and the Queenstown Lakes area.*
- *The Pomahaka River, which stretches through the central part of the ward, to the Clutha River/Mata-Au.*

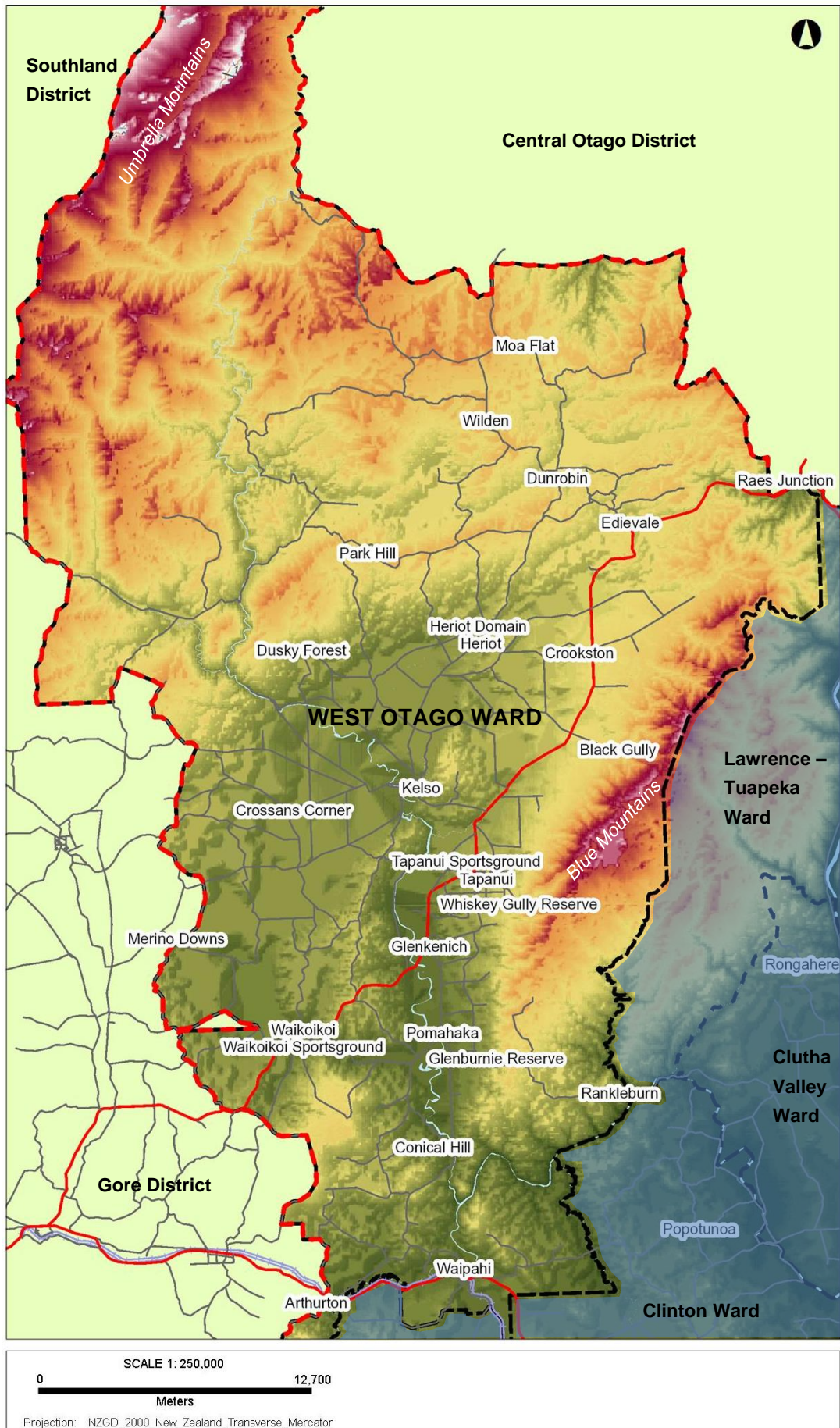


Figure 2-1 Topographic map of the West Otago Ward, with settlements and other features also shown.

2.3 CONSULTATION PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

2.3.1 Purpose

Consultation and engagement for Our Place West Otago aimed to seek input from the community to inform the development of the Our Place West Otago Community Plan.

2.3.2 Objectives

The consultation and engagement objectives were to:

- *Stimulate interest in Our Place West Otago project*
- *Encourage feedback on the issues and options outlined*
- *Develop stronger relationships and partnerships between Council and the community, and*
- *Provide accurate information for decision-makers to assist them in making informed choices around the resourcing of future projects and initiatives.*

A Communication and Engagement Plan for Our Place West Otago was prepared in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

2.3.3 Role of elected members

The role of the elected members to date has included:

- *Providing input and overall leadership for the Our Place project*
- *Approving consultation material and consultation/engagement approaches, and*
- *Promoting the Our Place consultation material and assisting with consultation and engagement activities.*

Elected representatives of the Clutha District Council (CDC), as well as members of the West Otago Community Board (WOCB) have assisted with this project. This Feedback Report provides CDC Councillors and the WOCB with the opportunity to consider all of the stakeholder and community feedback received. This feedback will then inform the final Our Place West Otago Community Plan.

2.3.4 Project Group

A project group for this project made up of Council staff, local Councillors, and West Otago Community Board members undertook the following:

- *Contributing to and where applicable, prepare underlying information to give foundation to the Our Place plans.*
- *Reviewing the draft Our Place material and ensure that it is ready for consultation.*
- *Attending meetings and take part in consultation activities as required.*

The next step that this report relates to will be to:

- *Action elected member direction on where to from here.*
- *Bring back for elected members approval of Our Place West Otago recommendations.*

2.4 FOCUS POINTS

Council engaged with community leaders to help identify six focus points, which were expected to generate significant feedback through the Our Place West Otago public consultation process. A short explanation of each focus point is provided in Table 2-1. These

were included in the consultation document (see section 3.2.1 below) and other consultation material (posters etc.).

Table 2-1 Our Place West Otago focus points included in consultation material

Focus Point	Explanation
1. <i>Community facilities</i>	The facilities and infrastructure which underpin local communities are critical. This process provides an opportunity to discuss the level of services currently provided, and any upgrades which may be required.
2. <i>Opportunities for development</i>	What actions could be taken to make it easier for people to live and work in the West Otago area?
3. <i>Landscape & environment</i>	How do we ensure that the recreational, cultural, landscape and ecological values of the West Otago area are maintained for future generations?
4. <i>Walking & cycling</i>	What opportunities are there to create new, or improve existing trails and links? What other facilities could be provided?
5. <i>Main street improvements</i>	Are there opportunities to improve the visual appeal of the main street in Heriot and Tapanui? How can we make these areas more inviting to the public?
6. <i>What else should be considered?</i>	This section included some other possible options, outside of the five main focus points. Questions relating to green waste, training initiatives for young people, and public transport were included.

3.0 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 PHASE ONE – STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

Preliminary conversations and meetings with key stakeholders began in July 2021 (Table 3-1). This preliminary engagement helped to identify the six focus points listed above. These were used to develop the formal consultation material, as well as the consultation program.

Table 3-1 Details of preliminary stakeholder engagement

Meeting	Date
West Otago Service Centre & Library – Council staff	15 July 2021
West Otago Community Board meeting	15 July 2021
West Otago Ward Councillors Zoom meeting (during Level 4 lockdown)	12 August 2021
West Otago Community Board meeting	29 September 2021
West Otago Service Centre & Library – Council staff	19 January 2022

3.2 PHASE TWO – PUBLIC CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

The public consultation phase took place from 28 January to 18 March 2022. Events were held in Heriot, Waipahi, Waikoikoi and Tapanui. As a result of New Zealand moving to the 'red' level of the Covid-19 traffic light setting on 24 January 2022, additional precautions were taken to improve safety for elected representatives, staff, and the public.¹

A number of different activities and methods across the different themes and areas were undertaken, as described below.

3.2.1 Consultation Material

A consultation document was developed to help prompt ideas and discussion, particularly around the focus points listed in Table 2-1. This document was distributed via urban and rural mail delivery during the week of 17 – 21 January 2022 to mailboxes in the West Otago Ward. Copies of the document were also available as follows:

- *West Otago Library*
- *Rosebank (Balclutha) Council reception*
- *Balclutha Library and i-site*
- *Online via Council's website*
- *Links on Facebook to direct readers to the full document online.*

A series of posters were also produced, relating to the key focus points. These were mounted on boards to help generate discussion at consultation events, as shown in Figure 3-1.

¹ Information about gatherings and visits at red is available here [\[link\]](#)



Figure 3-1 Focus point posters, mounted on display boards for a consultation event at Harli's Café, Heriot

3.2.2 Community-based consultation events

The community engagement program was designed to gather feedback from as many sectors of the population as possible. Nine public consultation events were held to gather feedback and suggestions (Figure 3-3). These were held in summer/early autumn to make the most of the warmer weather and longer days at this time of year. These events were initiated by Council specifically for the Our Place program, and targeted local people at places they feel most comfortable in (local pubs and cafés, local community centres).

In addition, Council staff and elected representatives arranged another seven events specifically for local businesses, groups and schools (Figure 3-4).

Staff and elected representatives talked with approximately 200 people during these events, and 751 feedback items were noted. Feedback from these events is summarised in sections 6.0 to 11.0.



Figure 3-2 Our Place West Otago consultation event – Boundary Street industrial area, Tapanui

Our Place West Otago Consultation							
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
3	4	5	6	7	8	January	
10	11	12	13	14	15		
28	18	Advert 1 in BME 19	20	21	22		
24	25	Advert 2 in BME 26	27	Harri's Café; Blue Mountain Nurseries 'smoko shout'	28		Illy's Café; Heriot Hotel
31	1	2	3	4	5		
7	8	9	10	Boundary Street 'smoko shout'	11	Waikoiko Hall	February
14	15	Advert 3 in BME 16	17	18	19		
21	22	Advert 4 in BME 23	24	25	26		
28	1	Advert 5 in BME (wrap-up) 2	3	4	5		
7	8	Illy's Café; Local group, Blue Mountain College, Forest Lodge Hotel	10	11	12		
14	15	16	17	18	19	March	
21	22	23	24	25	26		
7	8	9	10	11	12		
14	15	16	17	18	19		

Figure 3-3 Our Place West Otago calendar of events, over a seven-week period in January-March 2022

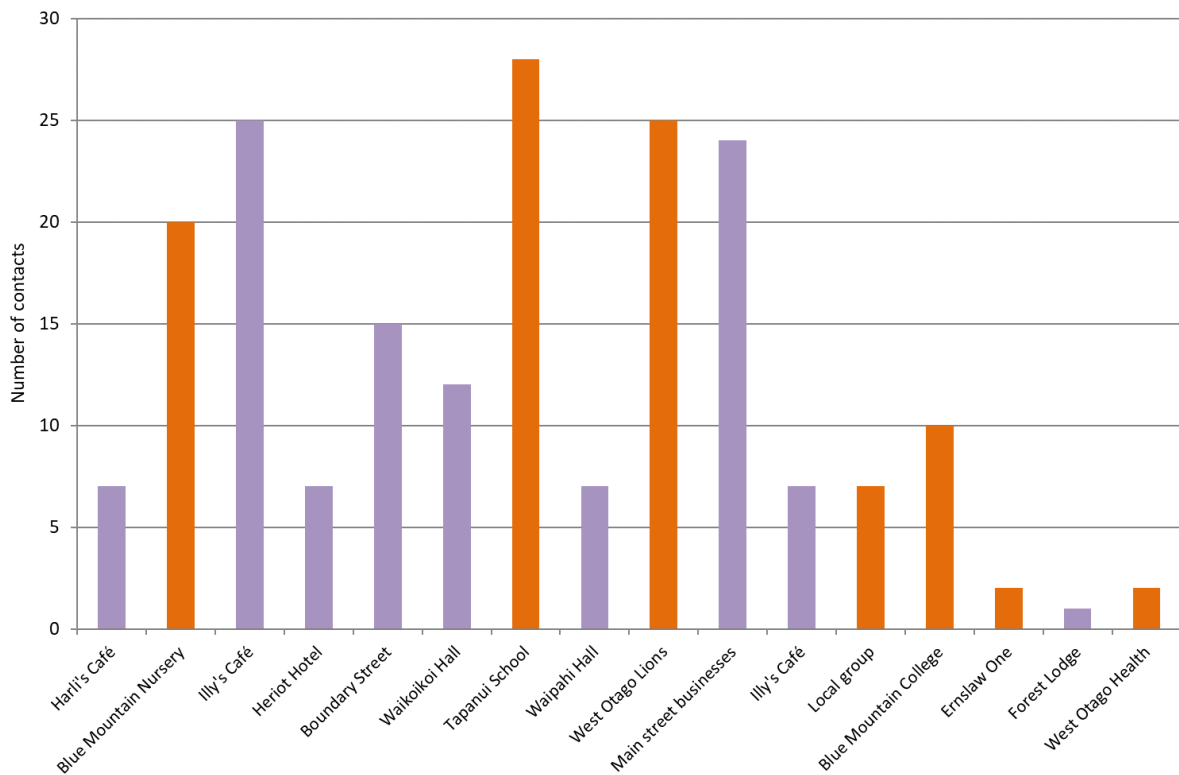


Figure 3-4 The number of people attending public consultation events (purple), and other events (orange)

3.2.3 Feedback form

Included within the consultation document was a feedback form, which included a structured survey for respondents to indicate the importance (or priority) for the ideas presented, and also provide comments or suggestions on the topics they believe are important. Both the consultation document and the feedback form used the same design style as previous 'Our Place' consultation material, including the 'Let's Talk' and 'Tell us what you think' catch-phrases. The feedback form was structured around the six focus points listed in Table 2-1, and also included space for any other feedback.

The feedback form was available as a hard copy form, or as an online version of the same material from Council's website.

3.2.4 Print and social media

Seven posts promoting the Our Place West Otago consultation document and the community consultation events were made on Council's Facebook page between 18 January and 8 March 2022. An example is shown in Figure 3-5.



Figure 3-5 CDC Facebook post

A series of 4-page colour adverts were placed in the Blue Mountain Express, encouraging people to become involved in the Our Place consultation. These included summaries of the main focus points, comments from elected representatives, and information about the upcoming public consultation events. An example is shown in Appendix A1.0.

Several articles were also published in the Clutha Leader relating to the consultation program, and the objectives of the Our Place West Otago Community Plan process.

4.0 THE TYPE AND AMOUNT OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED

4.1 TYPES OF FEEDBACK

There were three main types of feedback received through the consultation process, as described below:

1. Responses to structured questions included in the feedback form

Respondents were asked to rank the level of importance from 1 to 5, (with 1 being of little importance and 5 being very important) of various facilities and approaches, within the focus points identified in the consultation document.

Respondents were also asked to indicate their preference for various options, through Yes/No questions.

2. Responses to unstructured questions in the feedback form

The feedback form included space for respondents to make comments or suggestions relating to the various focus areas. Most respondents took the opportunity to provide additional comments regarding the focus areas, or on other areas of concern to them.

3. Feedback received during community-based consultation events

Conversations held with members of the public during the community consultation events were generally recorded on 'Post-it' notes, or on staff notepads.

In addition to these three main feedback types, staff and elected representatives met with community and business leaders, and school groups in West Otago. These conversations related to potential projects, including to gauge the level of support for certain activities.

Of those that provided an address with their feedback form, the majority (96%) were from people who live in West Otago (Figure 4-1). More than half of the forms returned were from Tapanui.

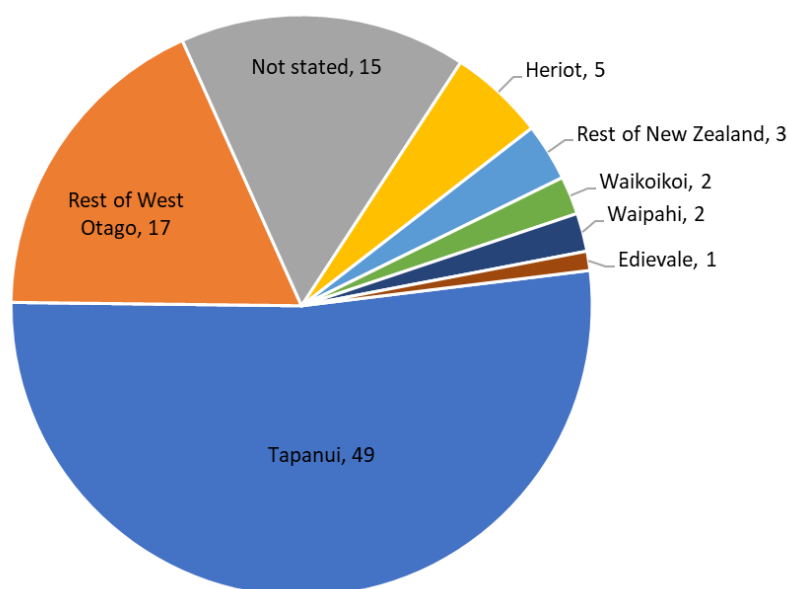


Figure 4-1 The number and location of respondents who completed and returned the feedback form

4.2 AMOUNT OF FEEDBACK

The following points help to quantify the amount of feedback received:

- 94 feedback forms were received (73 hard copy and 21 through the online portal).
- Staff and elected representatives had conversations with approximately 200 members of the public during consultation events.
- There were 1,239 feedback items received, and these were allocated to one of the six focus points (Table 4-1).

Table 4-1 The number of feedback items received for each focus point

Focus Point	Number of feedback items received		
	Consultation events ('Post-it' notes)	Feedback form (hard copy or online)	Total
1. Community facilities	259	155	414
2. Opportunities for development	199	127	326
3. Landscape & environment	84	68	152
4. Walking & cycling	118	66	184
5. Main street improvements	76	63	139
6. What else should be considered?	15	9	24
Total	751	488	1,239

One third of the feedback items received related to community facilities, 26% related to opportunities for development, and 15% related to walking and cycling (Figure 4-2).

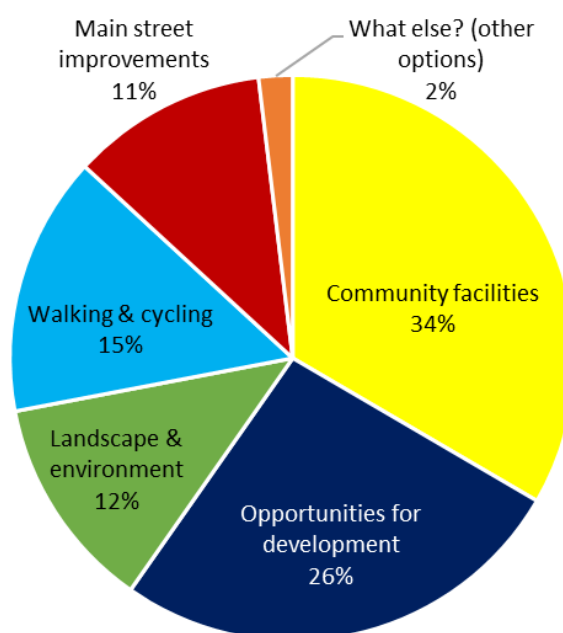


Figure 4-2 The proportion of feedback items relating to each of the focus points

5.0 WHAT MAKES WEST OTAGO SO SPECIAL?

We received at least 70 positive comments about West Otago, and what makes it such a great place to live. These were categorised, as shown in Figure 5-1. Perhaps unsurprisingly, comments about the community and family (i.e., the people) topped the list, closely followed by reserves, landscape, and scenery (i.e., the great outdoors). The pride that people have in their community was quite obvious throughout the consultation process, and some typical comments are listed in Box 5.1 below.

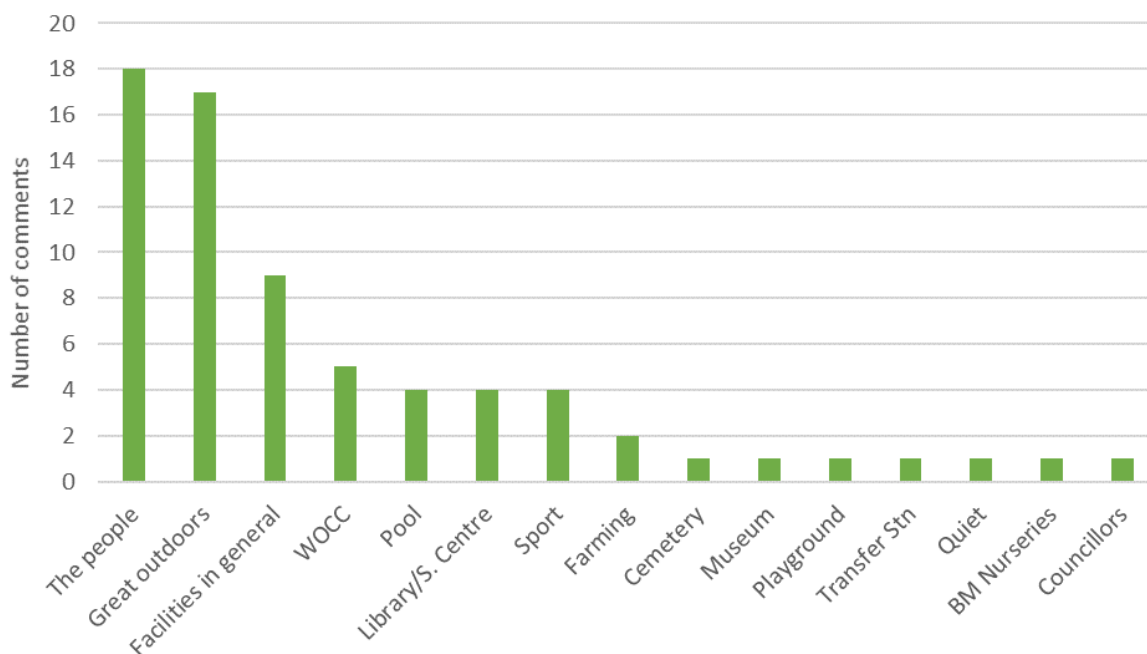


Figure 5-1 The number of positive comments received about West Otago

Box 5.1. What they said: positive comments about West Otago

“Swimming pool is great.”

“Service centre library services are excellent.”

“Community centre well used especially in winter. Can be chocked with events and sports, indoor tennis, great people come from all around.”

“Facilities and amenities are what brought me here (and it’s a beautiful town).”

“The community spirit and having access to great facilities like the library, community centre and pool.”

The following sections summarise feedback received through the structured survey, as well as the suggestions and feedback obtained during the public consultation program. The six focus points are discussed separately in sections 6.0 to 11.0

6.0 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Throughout the consultation process, we received feedback from people on community facilities. We also asked the following questions:

- How do we make the most of our community facilities, to encourage people to live and work here?
- Which of the ideas listed in the consultation document should be a priority?
- What other ideas do you have for our important public spaces?

6.1 SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of three community facility upgrade options, as shown in Table 6-1. The highest ranked item was the development of a 'destination' playground, with an average score of 3.7 out of 5. Of the 92 people who rated this option, 61% rated it as a 4 or a 5. In order, the next highest items were a pump track, toilet upgrade at the playground, and a skate park development. A large number of other comments were received relating to potential community facility projects, and these are presented in section 6.2.

Table 6-1 Rankings assigned to community facility upgrade options

How important is it that we continue to investigate...	Not Important		Very Important			Average score	Topic Rank	Overall Survey Position
	1	2	3	4	5			
Developing a 'destination' playground in Tapanui	8	6	22	25	30	3.7	1	9
A pump track development	14	9	17	16	27	3.4	2	11
An upgrade to the toilets at the Tapanui playground	13	8	27	21	17	3.2	3	13
A skate park development	22	13	17	9	25	3.0	4	16

Respondents were also asked to rate the importance of various community facilities in West Otago, including community centres, domain areas, and sports grounds. The results are shown in Table 6-2. The West Otago Community Centre almost had a perfect score, at 4.8 out of 5, and is obviously highly valued amongst the West Otago community.

Table 6-2 Rankings assigned to community facilities in West Otago

How important are the following community facilities?	Not Important		Very Important			Average score	Rank
	1	2	3	4	5		
West Otago Community Centre	1	0	3	10	76	4.8	1
Black Gully Domain	0	0	9	29	50	4.5	2
Whisky Gully Domain	1	1	10	25	50	4.4	3
Heriot Community Centre	5	4	12	17	46	4.1	4
Tapanui Domain	2	1	18	24	36	4.1	5
Heriot Domain	7	4	18	20	31	3.8	6
Waikoikoi Sports Ground	6	9	21	21	18	3.5	7
Hancox Park	19	8	19	15	23	3.2	9
Waikoikoi Hall	10	8	32	12	14	3.2	8
Waipahi Hall	10	12	27	12	11	3.0	10
Crookston Hall	13	15	29	11	10	2.9	11

6.2 OTHER FEEDBACK ITEMS

A total of 407 feedback items relating to community facilities were received through comments on the feedback form, and verbal feedback during the consultation program. This feedback has been categorised, as shown in Figure 6-1. The themes which came through most strongly were the creation of new facilities, existing playground facilities, and maintaining/upgrading existing facilities. The most popular themes are discussed in more detail below.

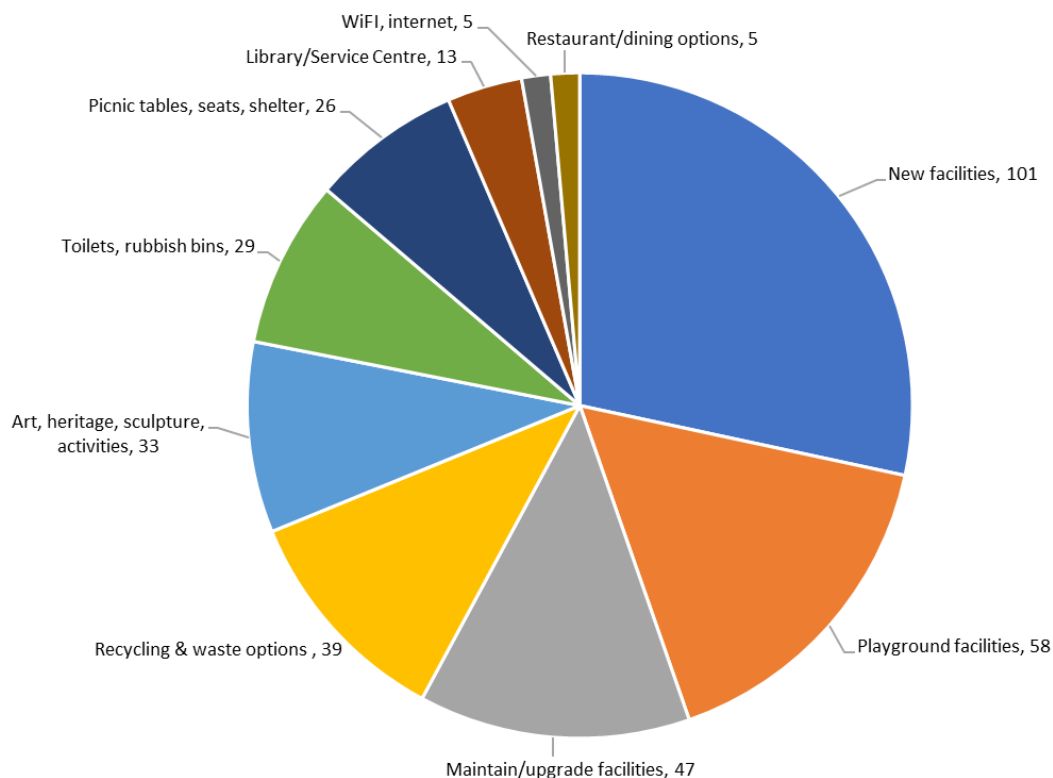


Figure 6-1 The number of comments received relating to community facilities

6.2.1 New facilities

More than 100 suggestions were put forward for new recreational facilities which could be created in West Otago. The most popular suggestion was for a skate park,² with a pump track or a bike park also rating highly. As shown in Figure 6-2, a wide range of suggestions for other facilities were also put forward, such as a basketball court, frisbee golf, and outdoor gym equipment. A new water fountain in central Tapanui was also a popular suggestion (7 comments), possibly with a tap for dogs to also get a drink!

Many of the suggested facilities could be developed on existing recreational land such as the playground on Bushyhill Street in Tapanui. Other projects would require additional space (e.g., a motorbike or BMX track). Any project to create new recreational facilities will need to carefully consider what space is available.

² Interestingly, a new skate park ranked lowest of the four options in the structured survey (Table 6-1)

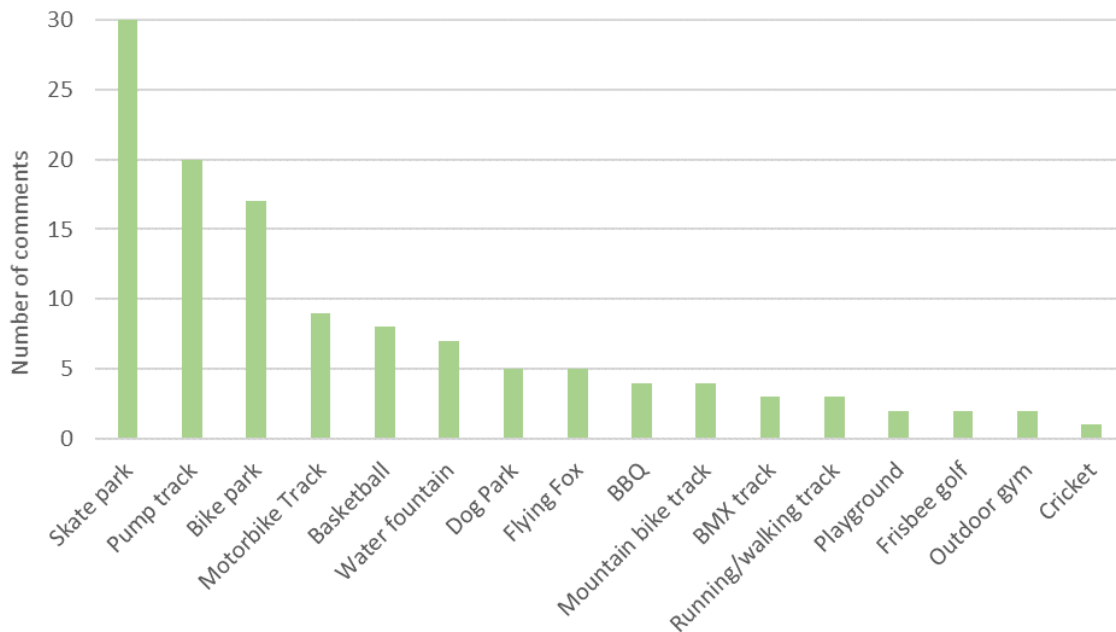


Figure 6-2 The number of comments relating to new facilities, by category

6.2.2 Playground facilities

A diverse range of suggestions were put forward relating to existing, and new playground and recreational facilities. As shown in Figure 6-1, almost 60 comments related to existing playgrounds. Most of these were requests for existing playgrounds to be upgraded, particularly the Tapanui playground, but also for outlying areas including the Black Gully reserve, Heriot and Waipahi. Other playground comments related to the creation of a unique or ‘destination’ playground, specific facilities for under 5’s, and keeping the grass area for free play at the Tapanui playground. One of the more comprehensive feedback items (which is consistent with many of the other items received) is shown in Box 6.1.

Playground-specific feedback received from local school children was also received (section 6.3), including drawings which are available on Council’s Our Place West Otago website.

Box 6.1. What they said: playgrounds

“I suggest that the existing playground be upgraded so it can be the ‘Destination’ playground. It’s a great facility with already good infrastructure in place. Improvements could include:

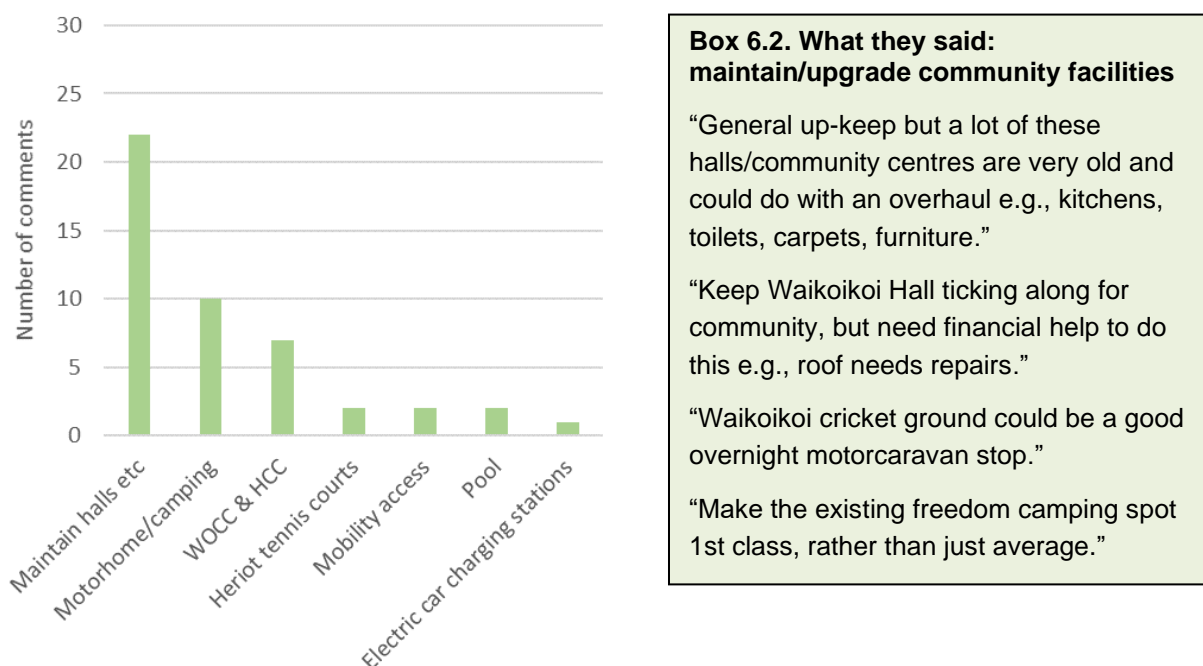
- sails to cover the current picnic tables
- bike track for children
- a small flying fox
- fencing to stop parking on the grass areas.
- a ‘hamster’ wheel – see [link](#)
- a better signpost for playground

The idea is to avoid the hefty price tag that comes with any new development, so upgrade the existing playground instead. People especially travellers with young families will want to stop here. Locals will want to go more instead of searching elsewhere for a bike park for their kids to use.”

6.2.3 Maintain/upgrade community facilities

A recurring theme during consultation was the need to carefully look after existing community facilities. This was heard across the West Otago Ward – from Heriot to Waipahi, and often related to community halls in general, and the West Otago Community Centre (WOCC) and

Heriot Community Centre (HCC) in particular, as shown in Figure 6-3. Some representative comments are shown in Box 2. The second most common theme within this area was improving facilities for visitors (motorhomes etc.), as shown in Figure 6-3 and Box 6.2 below.



Box 6.2. What they said: maintain/upgrade community facilities

“General up-keep but a lot of these halls/community centres are very old and could do with an overhaul e.g., kitchens, toilets, carpets, furniture.”

“Keep Waikoikoi Hall ticking along for community, but need financial help to do this e.g., roof needs repairs.”

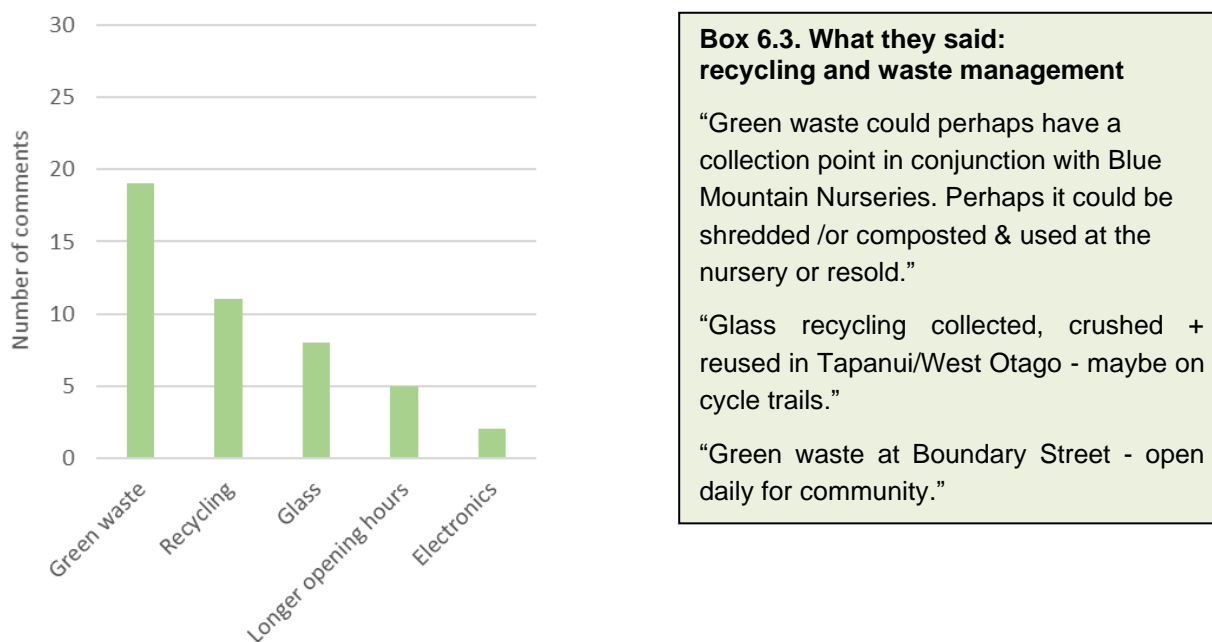
“Waikoikoi cricket ground could be a good overnight motorcaravan stop.”

“Make the existing freedom camping spot 1st class, rather than just average.”

Figure 6-3 Comments relating to maintaining/upgrading community facilities

6.2.4 Recycling / Waste options

Approximately 40 comments relating to recycling and waste management were received (Figure 6-1). The most common requests were for facilities to take green waste, glass recycling, and general recycling (Figure 6-4 and Box 6.3).



Box 6.3. What they said: recycling and waste management

“Green waste could perhaps have a collection point in conjunction with Blue Mountain Nurseries. Perhaps it could be shredded /or composted & used at the nursery or resold.”

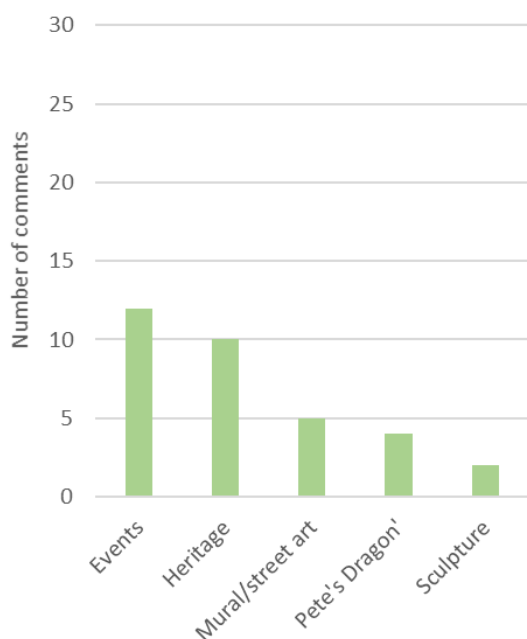
“Glass recycling collected, crushed + reused in Tapanui/West Otago - maybe on cycle trails.”

“Green waste at Boundary Street - open daily for community.”

Figure 6-4 Comments relating to recycling and waste management

6.2.5 Art, heritage, sculpture, activities

Although there were fewer comments received within this category, some creative suggestions were received, as shown in Figure 6-5 and Box 6.4. Suggestions for events which would help to 'liven up' West Otago include movie nights, farmers markets, festivals, sports events, craft events, and making more regular use of the showground.



**Box 6.4. What they said:
art, heritage, sculpture, and activities**

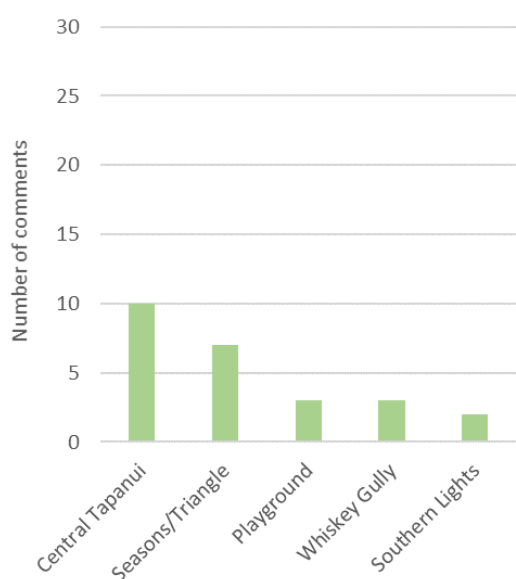
“We have a number of historic places in West Otago which need promoting e.g., the Tunnel at Conical Hill with just a small sign that you miss going past. We need a big sign so that people know there is a walking track to and through the tunnel.”

“A Pete’s Dragon statue with gaming features like waterspouts or cannons and amazing night lighting to attract tourists so they stop in town to take photos with it and go to the local cafe.”

Figure 6-5 Comments relating to art, heritage, sculpture, and activities

6.2.6 Picnic areas, seats, and shelters

Suggestions within this theme centred on the creation of public spaces that could be used for a range of purposes – somewhere to meet a friend for coffee, a nice spot to eat your lunch/have a picnic, or a ‘hang-out’ spot for teenagers. The suggestions came from all age brackets – from school kids right up to retirees. Generally, they related to central Tapanui, or more specifically referenced the Triangle Reserve or the area beside Seasons (i.e., the corner of Northumberland & Maple streets). Other suggestions related to additional seating, picnic tables, or shelters at places like the playground and Whiskey Gully (Figure 6-6, Box 6.5)



**Box 6.5. What they said:
Picnic areas, seats, and shelter**

“More community seating areas within the town area to be able to sit and eat your lunch.”

“I would like to see a covered shelter built somewhere central, perhaps by the library, so there was a dry place to meet a friend for lunch on a day when Illy’s isn’t open. Two glass walls, a roof & some seating shouldn’t cost much.”

Figure 6-6 Areas where additional/improved picnic areas, seats, or shelters were suggested.

6.2.7 Toilets and rubbish bins

There were 29 comments relating to this theme, including general improvements (8 comments), Heriot toilets (5), creating 'destination' toilets in Tapanui (5), toilets at outlying reserves and at playgrounds (4 each), and more rubbish bins (3 comments). A few comments stating that the main public toilets in Tapanui are fine were also received.

6.2.8 Tapanui Library and Service Centre

Thirteen comments relating to the Library / Service Centre were received. Six were that this facility should be moved (with some stating the building was ugly and should be demolished), and six requests for the opening hours to be extended were received (i.e., so that people can access this facility outside of work hours etc.). A suggestion to create a link between the Library and the West Otago Community Centre was also received.

6.3 FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL CHILDREN

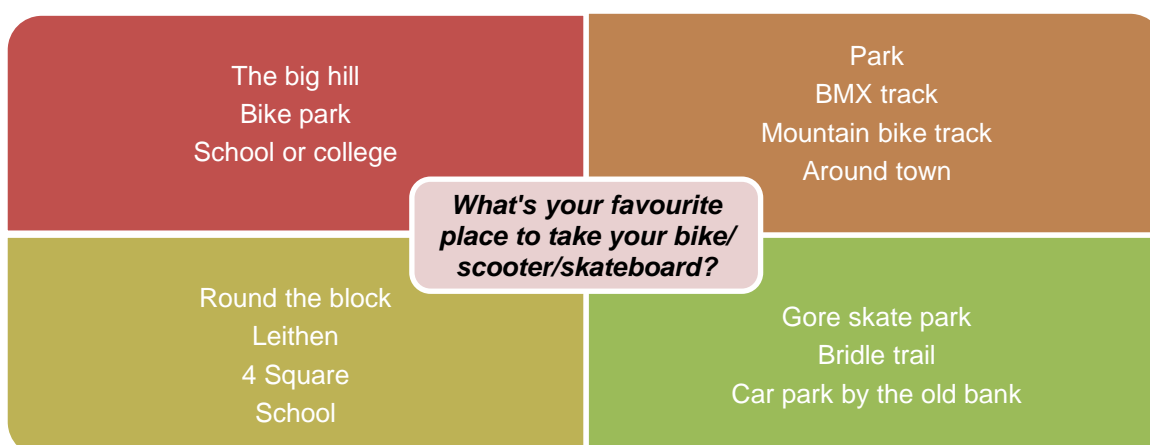
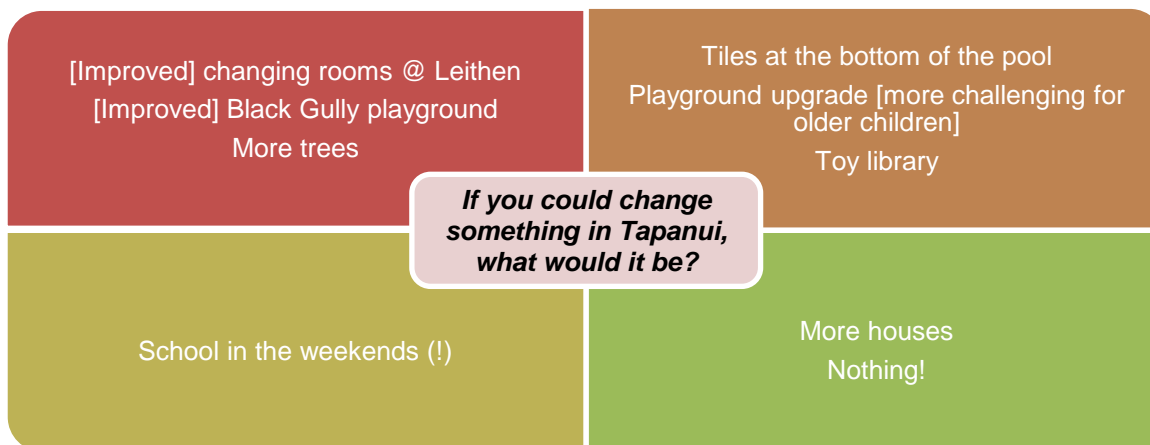
As part of the consultation program, we held workshops at Tapanui School and Blue Mountain College. The feedback from local children has been separated from other items, so that youth feedback can specifically be used to inform projects in the final Our Place West Otago Community Plan.

We talked with 28 senior children at **Tapanui School**. Their feedback is provided in a series of graphics and bullet points below.



What do you think would be an awesome addition to your town?

- We need bus transport like a Community Vehicle Trust. Tapanui to Gore or to Balclutha
- Trail from Harli's to Roxburgh (Clutha Gold)
- Bike rental place
- Pump Bike track
- Bike track
- Lookout Point
- Sunday markets
- Hamster wheel
- A test lab for covid tests and blood tests
- Pump track/skate & bike asphalt
- Net swing
- Water park – Hydro slide (indoor and outdoor)
- Create 'Lake Tapanui'
- Outdoor pool
- Hot tub at the school
- Outdoor seating at pool for adults and children
- Make pool better and deeper
- Aquarium
- Rebuild school fort
- Add set up for e-games
- Have businesses come out for a pop-up sale since we don't have access to certain types of shops
- Animal Shelter



What new things would you love to see in your playground?

- Bouncy pillow
- Hamster wheel
- Spiny swirly thing
- Zipline
- Big slide
- Spiderweb
- Trampoline
- Rugby post and a soccer goal in one
- Rock climbing wall, Clip 'n climb
- Skate Park
- Multi Sports field
- Leap/Jump
- Destination Playground
- Plastic slide
- Zoo
- Sandpit
- Jungle Gym
- Spider Cone
- Plants

Do you have any other thoughts about what changes you would like to see in your hometown?

- Hold an event occasionally with different events e.g., dance, sports etc.
- Paint ball arena
- Luge on the Blue Mountains

We also met with the Student Council at **Blue Mountain College**. Their feedback was similar to that described above, and centred around two main themes

1. *Creating a place for teenagers to 'hang-out', perhaps in central Tapanui, or even using one of the older buildings on the main street.*
2. *Water activities – being able to access the Leithen with their friends (transport issues), and an outdoor seating area at the pool.*

7.0 WALKING AND CYCLING OPTIONS

The consultation material put forward some walking and cycling options, and asked the following questions:

- How important is it to improve opportunities for walking and cycling in West Otago?
- What sort of trails should be developed - walking, cycling, short links, or longer trails?

A wide range of views were expressed on this focus point, as discussed below.

7.1 SURVEY RESULTS

Of the 89 survey respondents who rated this focus point, the majority felt that in general, it is very important to improve walking and cycling opportunities, resulting in an average score of 4.0 out of 5 (Table 7-1).

Of the three specific options put forward, the most popular were investigating a trail in and around Tapanui, or a trail to a local destination (both 3.8 out of 5). A multi-day 'Great Ride' option rated slightly lower, at 3.5 out of 5.

A range of other comments were received relating to walking and cycling opportunities, and these are presented in section 7.2.

Table 7-1 Rankings assigned to walking and cycling options

How important is it to...	Not Important		Very Important			Average score	Topic Rank	Overall Survey Position
	1	2	3	4	5			
Improve walking and cycling opportunities (in general)?	5	4	13	26	41	4.06	1	5
Investigate a walking/cycling loop in and around Tapanui (Option 1)?	11	3	14	21	40	3.85	2 nd equal	6 th equal
Investigate a walking/cycling trail to a local destination such as a wetland or lookout point (Option 2)?	7	6	15	24	35	3.85	2 nd equal	6 th equal
Investigate a multi-day 'Great Ride', linking to other trails and towns (Option 3)?	13	8	19	16	32	3.52	3	9

7.2 OTHER FEEDBACK ITEMS

A total of 184 feedback items relating to walking and cycling options were received through comments on the feedback form, and verbal feedback during the consultation program. This feedback has been categorised, as shown in Figure 7-1. There was considerable support, in general, for creating or improving trails, while creating trails to local destinations was also mentioned regularly. The most popular themes are discussed in more detail below.

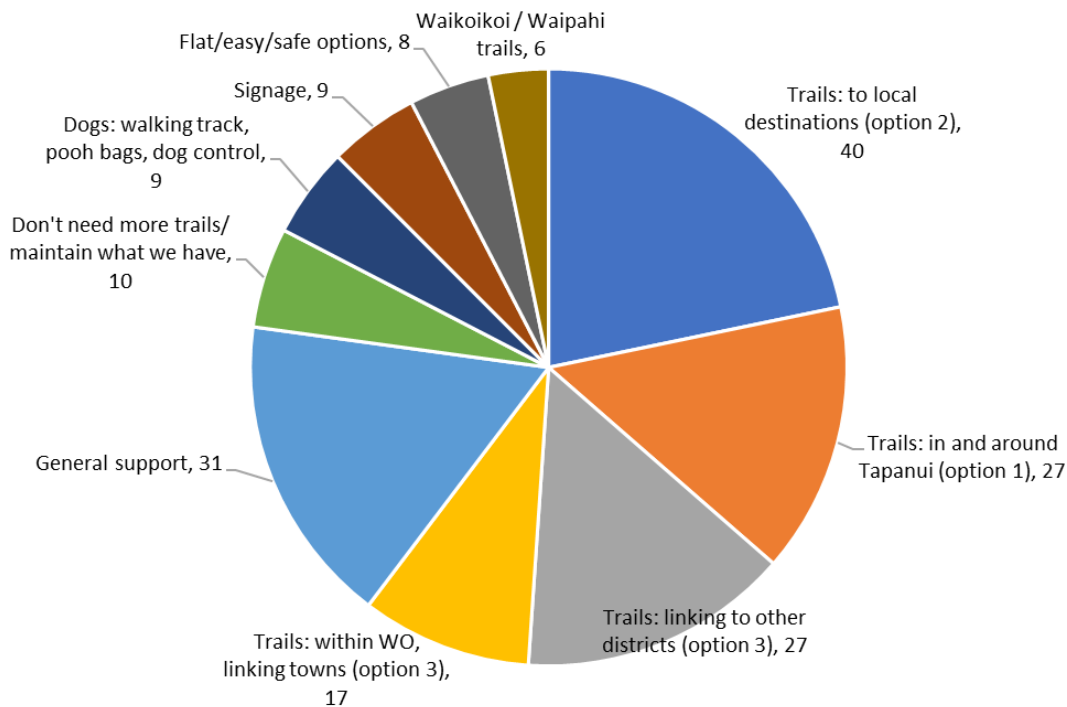


Figure 7-1 The number of comments received relating to various themes within the walking & cycling focus point

7.2.1 Trails to local destinations

Forty suggestions relating to the creation of walking/cycling trails to local destinations were received. This category is similar to option 2, as put forward by Council during consultation. Most suggestions assumed that the trail would start in Tapanui (although a few other locations were mentioned) and identified destinations between 10 and 15 kilometres away.

Within this category, the largest number of suggestions related to trails to, over, or alongside the Blue Mountains (Figure 7-2). For example:

- *“Cycle trail Tapanui to Black Gully.*
- *Bike Track along the Blue Mountains.*
- *Extend cycling track - seek permission from Ernslaw 1 to use the forestry road and gates to the side, to connect between Whiskey Gully & Black Gully.”*

Other suggested destinations included through the Kelso Gorge to Kelso, to the old railway tunnel at Conical Hill, to Heriot, or to a wetland (Figure 7-2).

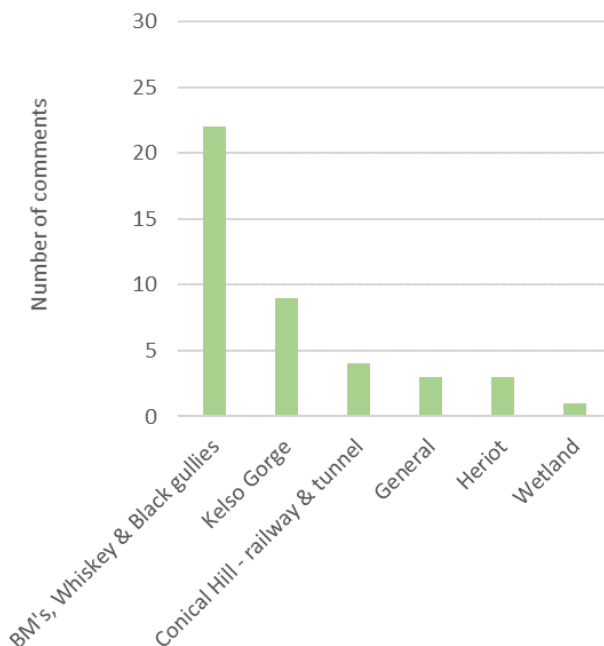


Figure 7-2 Comments relating to local destination trails

7.2.2 Trails in and around Tapanui

Another popular ‘walking and cycling’ theme related to the creation or improvement of trails in and around Tapanui (similar to option 1, as put forward by Council during consultation).

Most comments referred to a loop track around the town (Figure 7-3), with the Showgrounds, and Cameron, Knowles, Cemetery, Northumberland, Bushyhill and Braudigam roads all referred to as potential components of such a loop. An improved surface (including sealing of Knowles Road) was also mentioned, as was a mountain bike track near the cemetery, and safety issues - i.e., avoiding cars, suitable for walking dogs.

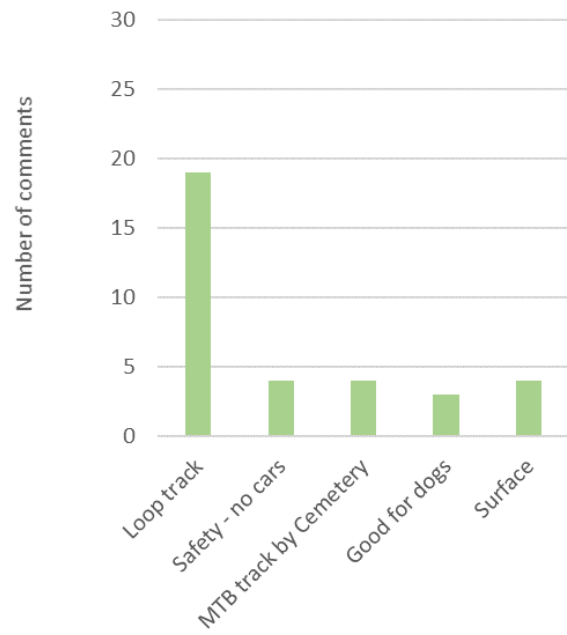


Figure 7-3 Comments relating to trails in and around Tapanui

7.2.3 Trails linking to other districts

There were 27 comments or suggestions regarding trails to other districts or existing trails. Some were general comments, while others related to links towards Central Otago (e.g., linking with the Clutha Gold Trail, Beaumont, or Rae’s Junction), or towards Southland (links to Mandeville, Lumsden, or Waikaka).

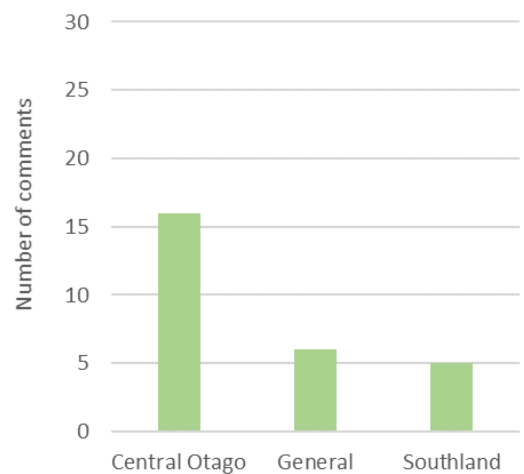


Figure 7-4 Comments regarding links to other districts/trails

8.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

The feedback form had a series of questions relating to this focus point. Survey, and other responses are discussed in the following sections.

8.1 SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents were asked whether Council should help to enable additional development in West Otago; whether residential, commercial, or industrial. The results are shown in Figure 8-1. The number of favourable responses outweighed negative responses for all three types of development. However, Council helping to enable residential development was by far the most popular option, with 76 positive responses, and only 14 negative ones.

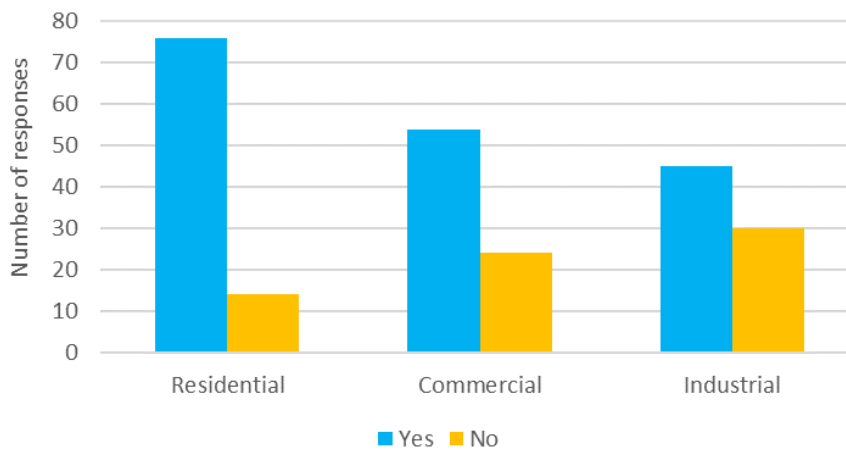


Figure 8-1 The number of responses relating to Council involvement in residential, commercial, or industrial development in West Otago

Respondents were also asked how they would like to see Hancox Park in Tapanui used in the future. The results are shown in Figure 8-2, with a recreational facility the most popular choice with 42 votes. Residential development was also popular, with 34 votes. Of the 15 respondents who voted for 'Other', several suggested it should be used for both residential and recreational activity, some asked that it be used as a dog park, a few stated that access for all is important, and one person said that Council should let someone else look after it.

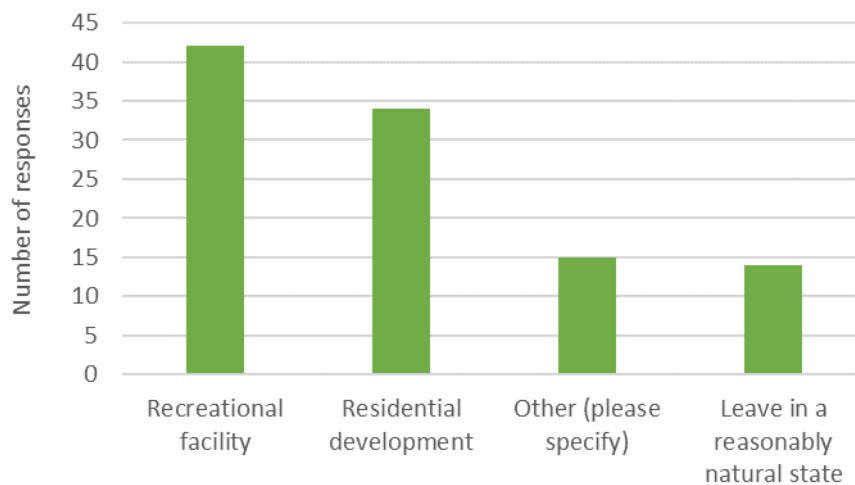


Figure 8-2 The number of responses regarding future use of Hancox Park

The third survey question was whether a 'Home and Land' package would help to encourage people to live in West Otago. 57 respondents (74%) said 'yes', and 20 (26%) said 'no'.

8.2 OTHER FEEDBACK ITEMS

Additional feedback relating to this focus point was received through feedback form comments, and verbal feedback during the consultation events. This feedback has been categorised and is summarised in Figure 8-3 below.

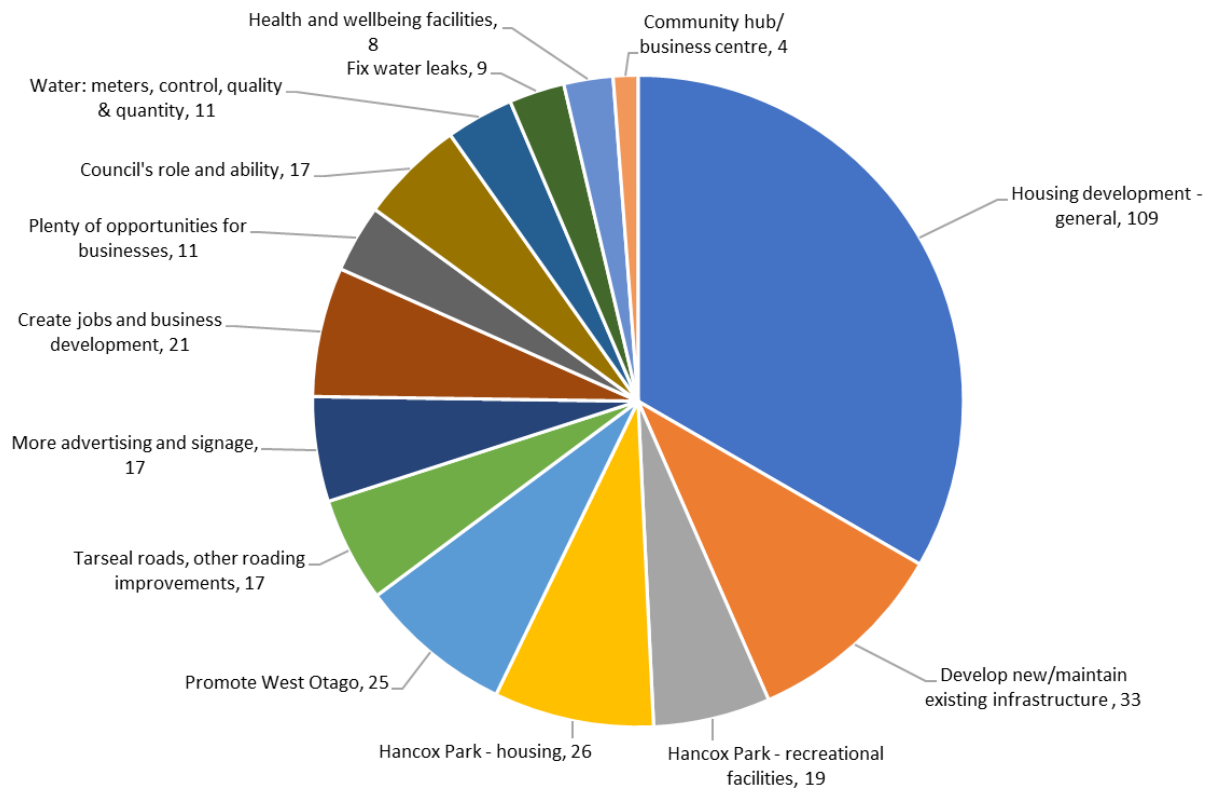


Figure 8-3 The number of comments received relating to various themes within the 'opportunities for development' focus point

8.2.1 Housing development – general comments

By far the largest number of comments within this focus point were those relating to housing development in general. These have been further categorised (Figure 8-4), with most relating to the need for more housing, or more land for residential development, as discussed below.

More housing required...

Many people stated simply that more housing is needed, while some identified specific types of housing, or areas where it is needed (Figure 8-4). These included:

- *Affordable housing*
- *Community housing*
- *Rental accommodation*
- *Retirement housing*
- *More housing in Heriot & Waikoikoi*

More land required...

More than 20 feedback items identified land which is suitable for subdivision. This included Council and privately-owned land, including the large area previously used for housing between Cemetery Road and Somerset Crescent. Another 11 people simply stated that more sections are needed for development.

Extending the urban boundary of Tapanui was suggested by 11 people, while 5 people said that housing development should only occur within the existing boundary (i.e., infill housing).

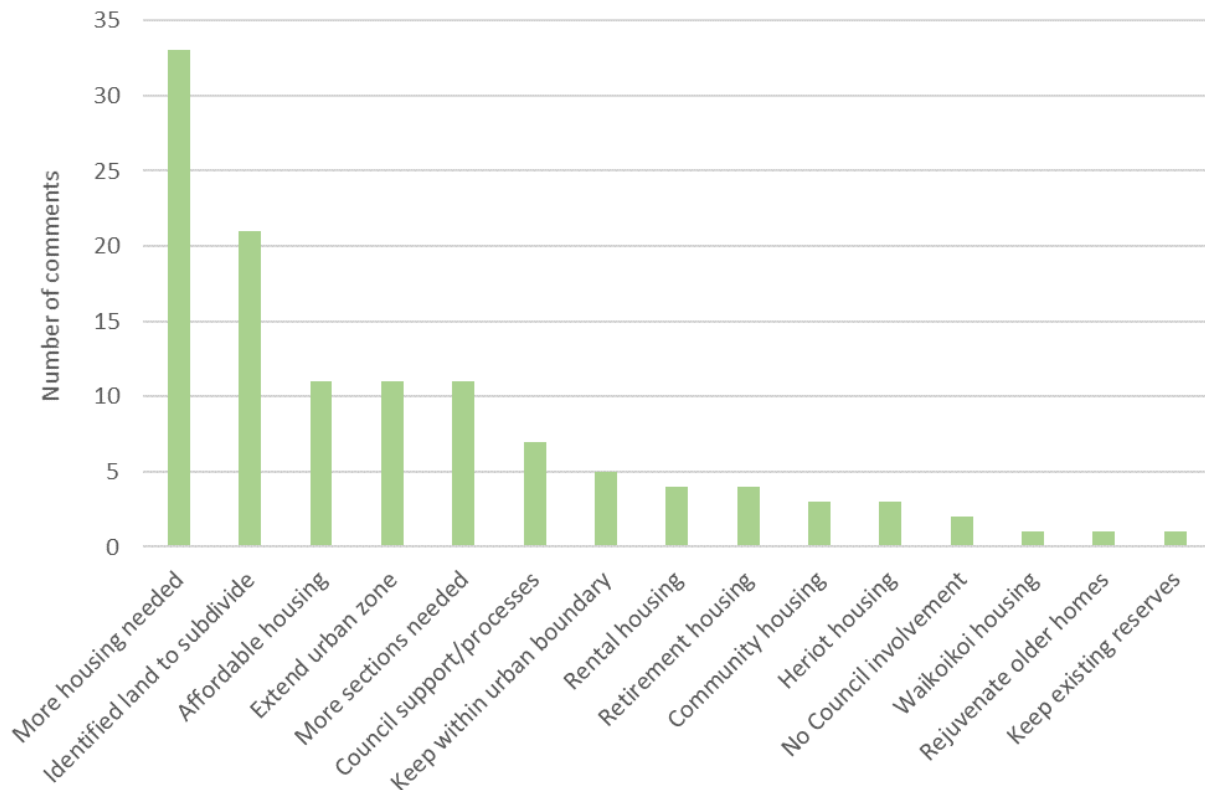


Figure 8-4 Comments relating to housing development in general

8.2.2 Infrastructure

Comments about developing new, or maintaining existing infrastructure, in order to enable additional residential development were provided by 33 people. These generally related to water and roading infrastructure (Figure 8-5). Representative comments include the following:

- *“Need infrastructure to be in place, otherwise it’s a hand break.*
- *Want to see town grow and prosper but need infrastructure.*
- *Yes to development, but the water problem needs to be sorted out first. The Council is handing out permissions to build when there is not enough water for the buildings (houses) etc. already here.”*

Other relevant comments (as categorised in Figure 8-3) include those requesting improvements to roads in the area, including requests for roads to be sealed (Boundary Street, Knowles Road, Koi Flat Road), and better maintenance of gravel roads. Nine comments about ‘fixing water leaks’ were received, and another 11 related to water quality, quantity, and water meters.

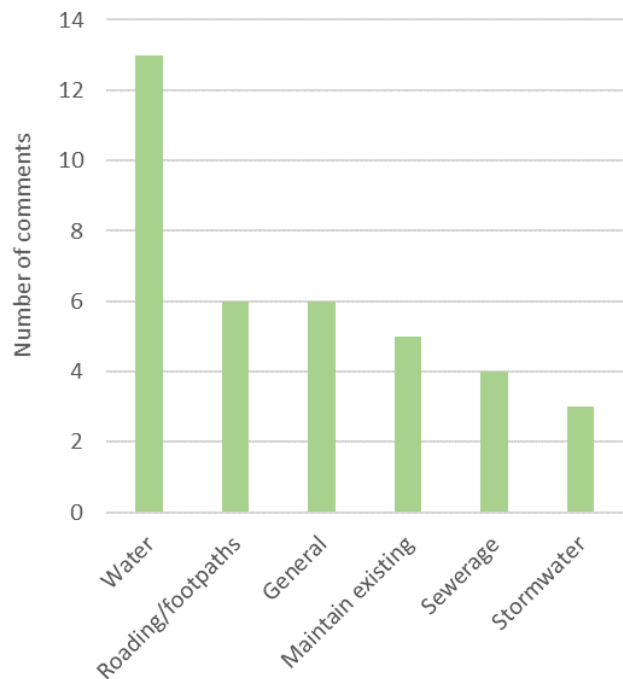


Figure 8-5 Comments relating to infrastructure

8.2.3 Creating jobs / business development

There were 21 comments relating to this theme, including the following representative items:

- *“What can be done to encourage more business? This creates community, housing is key.*
- *Commercial/industrial on the land between Derby Street & the Reserve (Pound)*
- *People are reluctant to own commercial buildings as they don't know what is involved. With a bit of help, they could be encouraged into business. Perhaps Council buys building(s) and rents it out; or provides workshops to help people wanting to get into business (i.e., start-up support).*
- *Need more business, and for existing businesses to grow.*
- *Need to keep main street alive, got to keep it going.”*

8.2.4 Council's role and ability

There were 17 respondents who took the opportunity to comment on the role Council plays in the community. Some of these were positive, while some identified where there is 'room for improvement'. Representative examples include:

- *Don't hinder good development but I'm not a fan of Council or Government involvement.*
- *Encouraging subdivision needs to be backed up by Council with timely processing.*
- *Guidance for landowners thinking about subdivision - better information.*
- *Council makes it easy to push things through, find them easy to deal with, get treated with respect.*
- *At the time when Tapanui had a Borough Council a caretaker was employed who cut the lawns, kept an eye on the town, attended to water leaks, the WTS, mud tanks etc. and was the 'go to' person for the community - his local knowledge was invaluable. At present no one seems to be in charge - it appears that it is up to individual residents to report problems to Council who then contact the appropriate contractor which could then take days for the issue to be dealt with. It seems so inefficient and without having a local person in charge there is not the interest or pride in having the town running smoothly. I would like Council to consider employing a caretaker for our town.”*

9.0 MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS

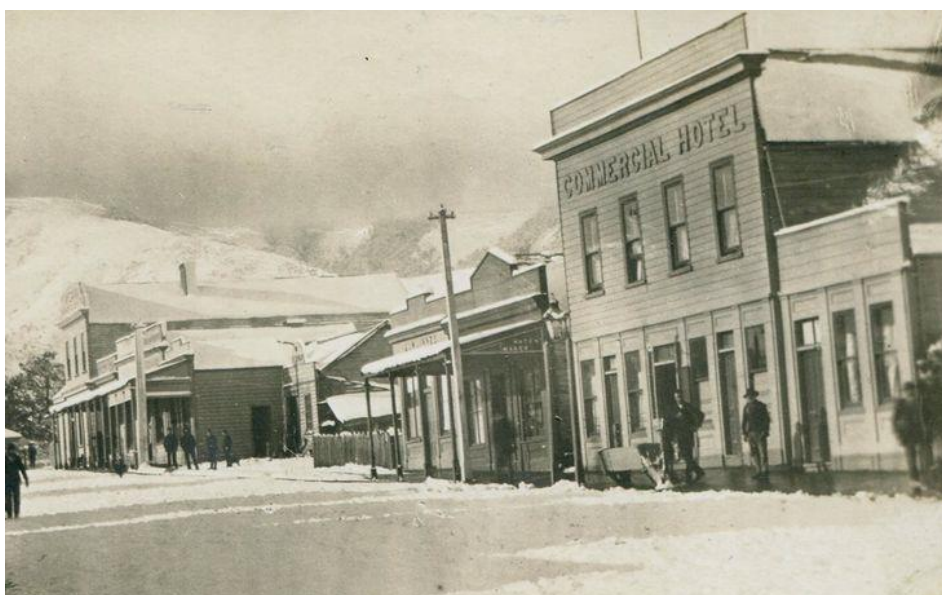


Figure 9-1 Tapanui main street under snow, 1906

9.1 SURVEY RESULTS

Some potential projects to improve the main streets of Tapanui and Heriot were listed in the feedback form. Respondents were asked to rate these options, and the results are shown in Table 9-1. Most of these projects had a fairly even distribution of scores between 1 to 5. This suggests some people are quite happy with the existing main street environment, whilst others are keen to see improvements made.

The project with the highest rating within this focus point was upgrading the Tapanui public toilets, while undergrounding the powerlines in central Tapanui was rated lowest within this focus point, and also overall (Table 1-2).

Table 9-1 Rankings assigned to main street improvement options

How important is it that we continue to investigate...	Not Important		Very Important			Average score	Topic Rank	Overall Survey Position
	1	2	3	4	5			
Upgrading the existing public toilets in Tapanui	13	15	19	16	24	3.26	1	11
Improving the main street/town entrances in Tapanui	16	7	25	16	20	3.20	2	13
Improving the main street/town entrances in Heriot	17	10	19	16	21	3.17	3	14
Upgrading the intersection of Northumberland and Maple Streets	22	14	16	14	15	2.83	4	17
Underground the powerlines in Tapanui's main retail area	22	16	21	15	14	2.81	5	18

9.2 OTHER FEEDBACK ITEMS

Additional feedback relating to this focus point was received through feedback form comments, and verbal feedback during the consultation events. This feedback (142 items in total) has been categorised, as shown in Figure 9-2 below. The sub-categories which generated the most

feedback include the need to repair/tidy up older buildings and sections, general improvements for both Tapanui and Heriot’s main streets, and traffic safety measures.

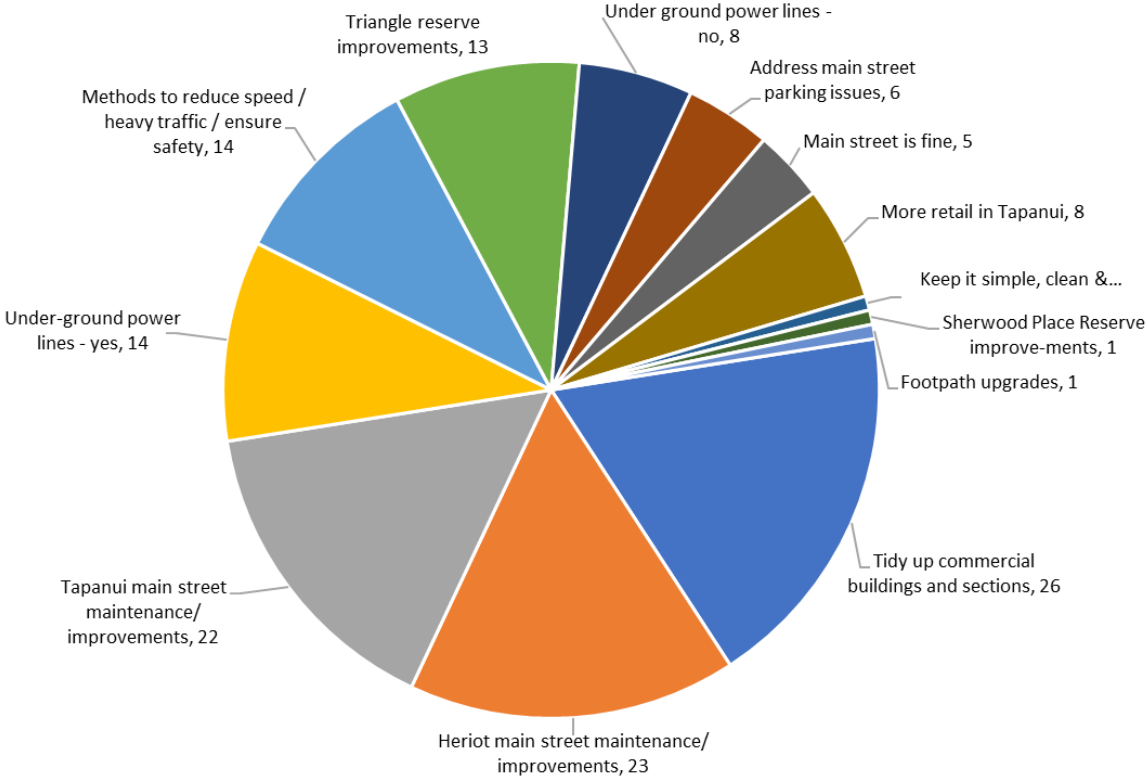


Figure 9-2 The number of comments received relating to main street improvements

9.2.1 Tidying up commercial buildings and sections

As well as the nine general comments about untidy commercial buildings on the main street, there were eight specific buildings or sites that were noted as requiring a tidy up, a re-paint, or just put to a better use. Figure 9-3 shows the number of comments relating to each site.

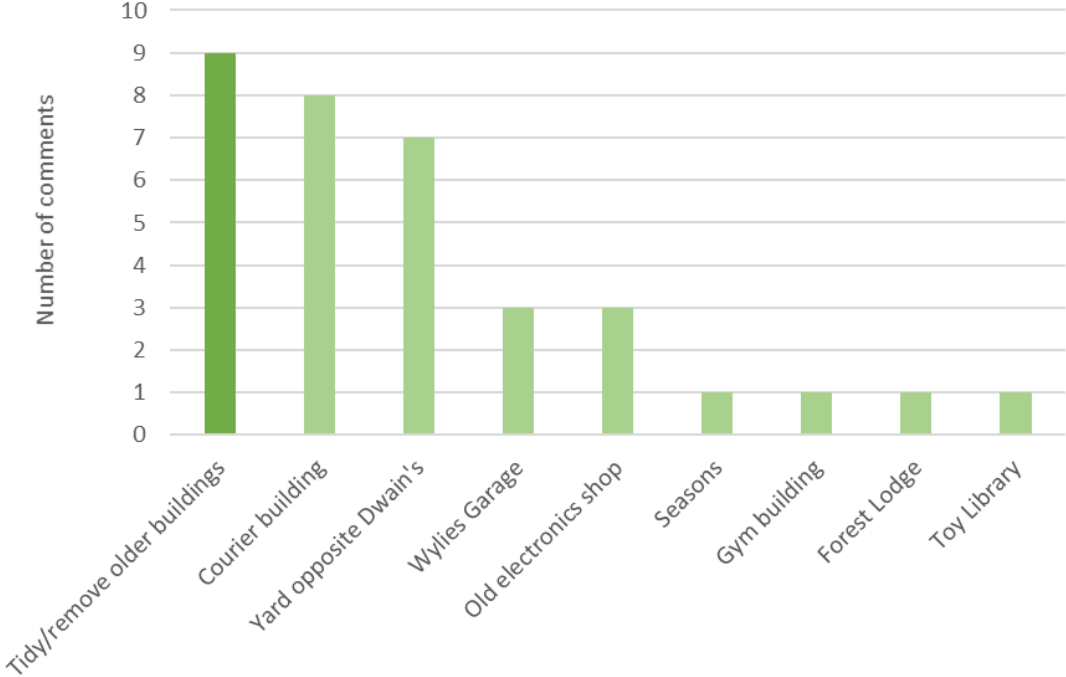


Figure 9-3 The number of comments relating to commercial buildings and sections. General comments shown in dark green, with site-specific comments in light green.

9.2.2 Tapanui & Heriot main street improvements

As well as comments about commercial buildings, there were 45 feedback items relating to other main street improvements in Tapanui and Heriot. In Heriot, suggestions included creating grassed areas along the main street, planting trees and shrubs, or work to reduce dust from unsealed areas (Figure 9-4). Landscape architecture students from Lincoln University have previously undertaken work to develop concepts for Heriot’s main street, and these plans are available on the Our Place West Otago website.

In Tapanui, there was also some support to improve or better maintain the main street. The best way to do that was less clear however, with many comments simply referring to the main street looking ‘shabby’, and in need of improvement. One idea put forward was to provide planter boxes, or banners along the main street (Figure 9-4). Some of the comments relating to main street improvements are shown in Box 9.1.

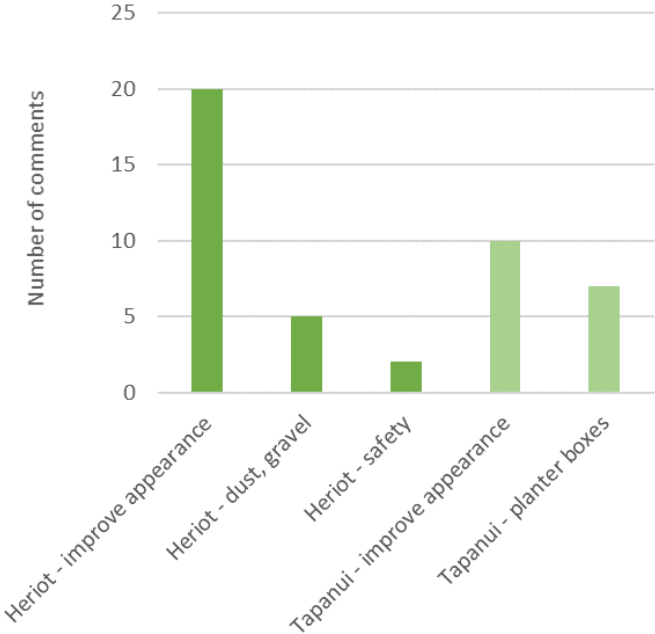


Figure 9-4 The number of comments relating to Heriot (dark green) & Tapanui (light green) main street improvements

As shown in Figure 9-2, there were several comments regarding improvements to the Triangle Reserve in central Tapanui. Providing seating, shade and landscaping were common suggestions to improve its appearance and utilisation. Note, relevant feedback was also received under the Community Facilities focus point, as discussed in section 6.2.6. Other Tapanui main street feedback related to undergrounding powerlines and parking (Figure 9-2)

Box 9.1. What they said: Tapanui and Heriot main streets

“Heriot’s main street needs a tidy up, the gravel verge needs to be sealed.

Heriot would look great if it had some main street improvements like what they have done down the main street in Mataura.

Need to maintain our shops on the main street to encourage visitors. Always thought a second-hand shop (clothing & goods) would attract people.

I would like to see our empty buildings e.g., Wylie’s Garage utilised.”

9.2.3 Reducing speed, heavy traffic, ensure safety

There were 14 comments on this topic, with most relating to lower speed limits, or more speed signs. One or two comments were received regarding school pedestrian crossings, critical/dangerous intersections, and diverting heavy traffic onto Duncan Road to improve safety on the Tapanui main street.

10.0 LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT

10.1 SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents were asked to rate the three options listed in Table 10-1, relating to environmental restoration type projects. The most popular option was work to eradicate pest species (rated 4.2 out of 5). Options to support wildlife regeneration and creating or enhancing wetland environments were also rated highly (4.1 and 3.7 respectively).

Table 10-1 Rankings assigned to potential landscape and environment projects

How important is it that we continue to investigate...	Not Important		Very Important			Average score	Topic Rank	Overall Survey Position
	1	2	3	4	5			
Eradicating pest species – e.g., sycamores at Whiskey Gully	2	3	15	21	43	4.2	1	2
Supporting wildlife regeneration	1	5	18	25	37	4.1	2	4
Creating or enhancing wetland environments	2	12	22	24	27	3.7	3	7

10.2 OTHER FEEDBACK ITEMS

Additional feedback relating to this focus point was received through feedback form comments, and verbal feedback during the consultation events. This feedback (152 items in total) has been categorised, as shown in Figure 10-1 below. The sub-categories which generated the most feedback align well with the survey results above, with work to maintain or tidy up reserve areas, including spraying and pest management receiving the most comments.

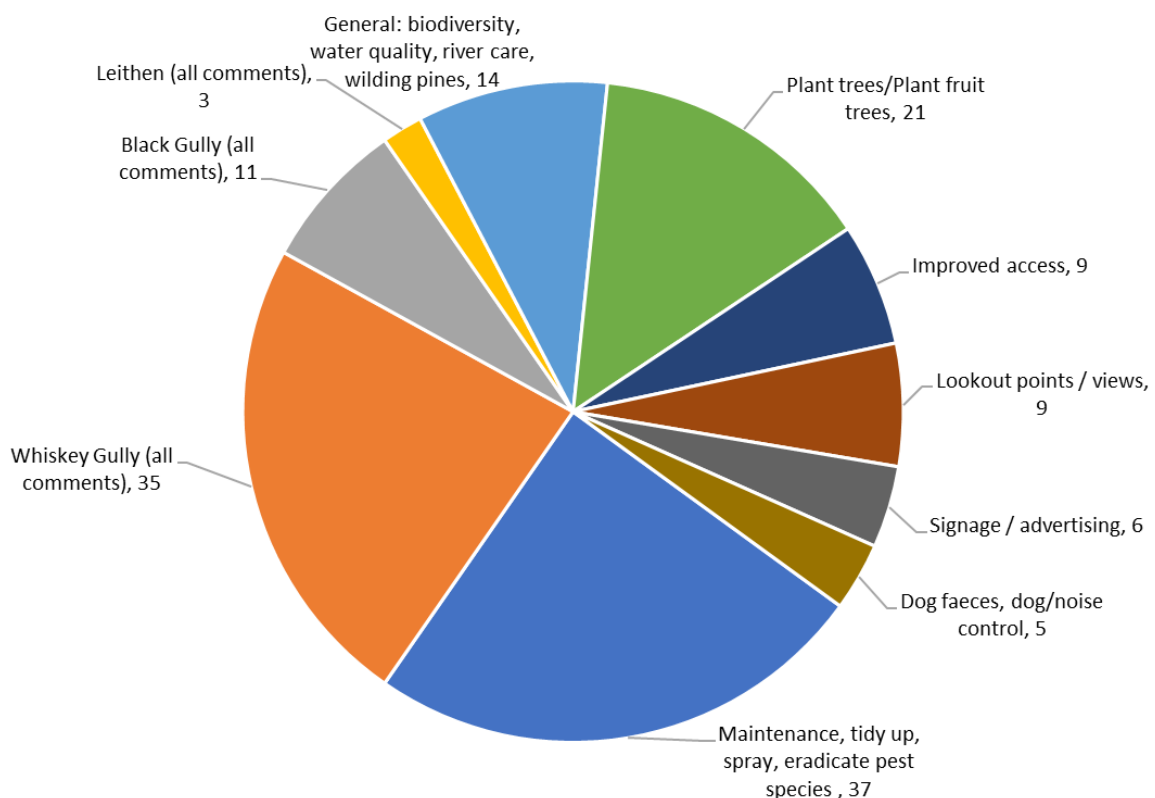


Figure 10-1 The number of comments received relating to landscape and environment

10.2.1 Maintenance, spraying, pest species

This theme received 37 comments (Figure 10-1), with many requesting better weed control and spraying, or just improved maintenance of greenspace areas. Better maintenance of roadside areas, including rubbish removal received just a few comments.

10.2.2 Whiskey Gully & Black Gully

Many of the comments in the previous section are also relevant to the Whiskey and Black Gully reserves. Comments which referred specifically to Whiskey Gully have been categorised, as shown in Figure 10-2. This is obviously a well-used and well-loved reserve in West Otago, and many people told us that it should be better maintained, and improvements such as signage, seating, picnic areas, or a playground made. Work to eradicate pest species (including sycamores) was also requested.

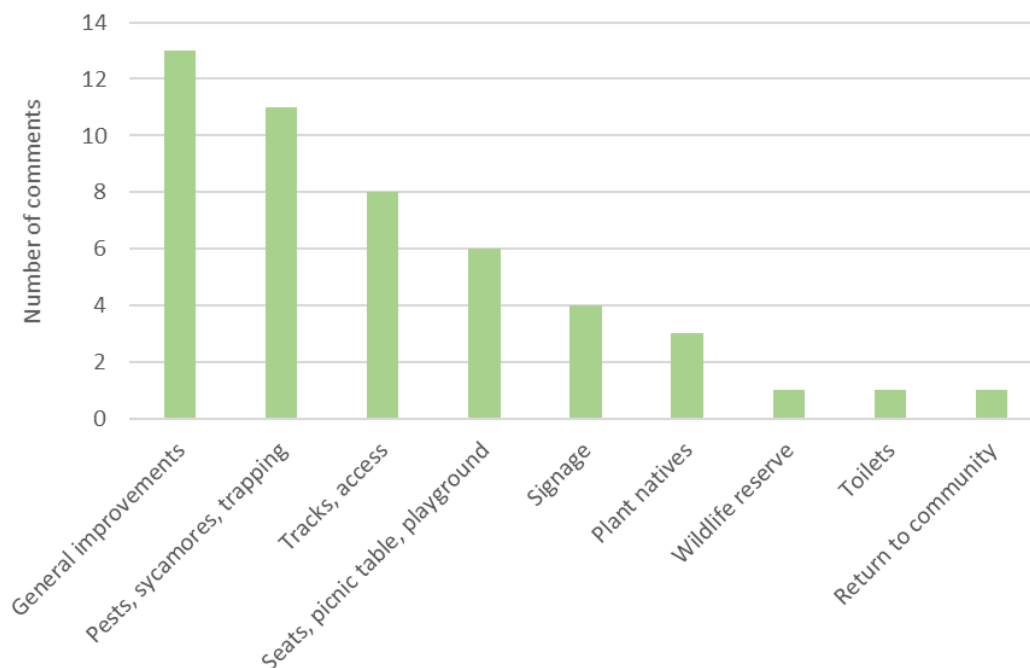


Figure 10-2 The number of comments relating to Whiskey Gully

The comments relating specifically to Black Gully were generally similar to those for Whiskey Gully. However, the following feedback items were also received:

- *Although it's approved for [NZMCA] members, there is no real flat area to camp on.*
- *Upgrade of cabins, kitchen and toilets, increased playground facilities required.*
- *Black Gully is really popular. Credit to the family who looks after it, used a lot by groups and clubs.*
- *[Lions Club offered to] collaborate with...the Domain Committee to develop Black Gully and support them to maintain/improve it.*
- *Black Gully run by volunteers with help from CDC with toilet cleaning over the busy summer months. Maybe something could be done with playground equipment, painting etc.*

10.2.3 Planting trees

A total of 23 comments were received regarding planting of trees. This included planting of natives (kowhai in particular), riparian plantings, community orchards/fruit trees, and trees on roadside berms.

11.0 WHAT ELSE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED?

The feedback form identified three other potential projects that could be investigated for West Otago. The ratings for these items are shown in Table 11-1.

Table 11-1 Rankings assigned to other potential projects to enable living and working in West Otago

How important is it that we continue to investigate...	Not Important		Very Important			Average score	Topic Rank	Overall Survey Position
	1	2	3	4	5			
A green waste initiative	3	2	16	19	50	4.23	1	1
Opportunities to help young people train and work	4	1	13	26	42	4.17	2	3
A public transport option linking to other towns	17	16	20	12	19	3.00	3	16

Green waste initiative

An initiative to process green waste was the highest ranked option and was also ranked highest of all the options listed in the consultation material. Other feedback items relating to green waste are discussed in section 6.2.4.

Opportunities to help young people train and work

Although it ranked reasonably highly in the survey, there were few feedback items received directly relating to 'opportunities to help young people train and work'. However, a large amount of feedback was received relating to relevant topics such as additional housing (section 8.2.1), creating jobs/business development (section 8.2.3) and improving the standard of community facilities (section 6.0).

Public transport option

Although a public transport option was rated highly by some people, the average score of 3.0 meant it had the third lowest rating of all projects identified in the consultation material. There were a few feedback items on this topic, including the following:

- *"We haven't got the numbers for public transport it will fall over.*
- *Public transport linking to other towns would be very costly for people using it.*
- *There are opportunities to contact organisations such as Red Cross & St John for transport to medical appointments, but these are not generally known or advertised.*
- *We are able to access most things ... but should Seasons no longer exist maybe a minibus travelling to Gore one day a week, returning a couple hours later would work. However, shop locally is imperative.*
- *A public transport option linking to other towns would be hard to be successfully viable. There are options in the town for people to be taken for appointments e.g., Red Cross & St John. The RSA members are at the moment considering if there is something they could do on a roster system.*
- *New migrants struggle with no license and no way to get to Gore/Balclutha to buy essentials."*

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: BLUE MOUNTAIN EXPRESS ADVERT - EXAMPLE

19 January, update 1 of 5

Our Place West Otago

WHAT IS OUR PLACE WEST OTAGO?

We've set a strategic direction to promote living and working in the Clutha District. But what does that mean for West Otago?

We want to know how we can work with the community to help make things happen.

We want to take the lead, and we've identified some options which could help to make West Otago a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

Which of these projects do you think we should be focusing on? What other ideas do you think should be considered?



Community Facilities. West Otago has some key public reserves and green spaces that provide a focal point for the community, with amenities such as the pool, playgrounds, playing fields and halls. How do we make the most of these assets, to encourage people to live and work here? Options could include playground upgrades, new recreational facilities such as a pump track, or improvements to our important community centres.

Tell us what you think... Which of these ideas should be a priority? What other ideas do you have for our community facilities?

Upcoming Consultation Events

DATE	TIME	PLACE
Friday 28 January	9-11am	Harli's Café, Heriot
Saturday 29 January	10am-noon	Illy's Café, Tapanui
Saturday 29 January	4-6pm	Heriot Hotel
Friday 11 February	3pm-4pm	'Smoko Shout' for local businesses - Boundary Street, Tapanui
Saturday 12 February	10am-noon	Waiakoikoi Hall
Thursday 17 February	3-5pm	Waipahi Hall

We will visit local schools and several local businesses as well. Keep an eye out for us, come and say hi, and put forward your suggestions.

Message from the Mayor

Bryan Cadogan

This is West Otago's turn to go through the process of collectively determining the priority projects for this area. It's time to dream and to think big. If you want to help shape the future of West Otago for generations to come, then please get involved in this consultation process.

I have aspirations of how our district's towns can look, both now and into the future, so I can't stress enough the importance of what we're trying to achieve here.

Council is conscious of the cost to ratepayers, but also aware of the cost of doing nothing. It's time we talked about the priorities for our community, listened to others and believed that, collectively, we can make a difference.



What else is being considered?



OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

There are plenty of employment opportunities in West Otago, but it can be a challenge finding a suitable house to purchase or rent. We know that housing and work opportunities go hand in hand - more quality housing development would help to attract people to live and work here, and a wide range of employment opportunities will help to ensure future growth.

What can Council do to help enable additional development in the West Otago area?

LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT

West Otago is an attractive area, with mountains and rugged hill country, rolling foothills, broad flood plains and rivers. These elements combine to form a scenic and highly valued physical environment. Work is being undertaken locally to ensure environmental values are protected and enhanced. An example is the Pomahaka Water Care Group, which is developing innovative methods to improve water quality in the catchment.

What other initiatives should be considered, to help protect and enhance the landscape and environment?



Scan the QR code below to find out more...



OTHER TOPICS...

Other options we have identified include walking and cycling opportunities, main street improvements, waste management, work/training opportunities, and public transport links.

Further information is available on the Our Place West Otago website – just scan the QR code or go to www.cluthadc.govt.nz/community/our-place-community-planning.

We're also keen to talk to as many people as we can – so please come along to one of the public events listed over the page!